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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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THE HEATHEN INDEE.

Truthful James to the Editor. (Vreku, 1873).

Which is not my style
To produce needless pain
By statements that belie,
Or that go 'gin the grain,
But here's Captain Jack still a livin', and Nye has no skelp on his brain!

On that Cancasian head
There is no crown of hair,
It is gone, it has fled!
And I asks, "Is this Nation a White Man's, and is generally things on the square?"

She was known in the camp
As "Nye's other squaw,"
And folks of that stamp
Is not high in the light of the law,
But is treacherous, sinful and slimy, as Nye might fev' well known before.

But she said that she knew
Where the Injins was hid,
And the statement was true,
For it seemed that she did:
Since she led Williams, whose hair was covered by Seventeen Modocs, and slid!

Then they reached for his hair;
But Nye sez, "By the Law
Of Nations, (phrase)
I surrenders—no more:
And I looks to be treated, you hear me?—as a pris'ner, a pris'ner of war!"

But Captain Jack rose
And he sez, "It's too thin.
Such statements as those
It's too late to begin.
There's a *Modoc indictment* agin you, O! Palefaces, and you're goin' in!"

"You stole Schonchin's squaw
In the year sixty-two;
It was in Sixty-four
That Long Jack you went through,
And you burned Nasty Jim's raucheria and his wives and his pappooses too.

"This gun in my hand,
Was stole from Pit River,
'Gainst the law of the land,
And I grieves it is true!
And he buried Jake in his blanket and wept as he hid it from view.

"But you're tried and condemned
And skelping's your doom,
And be passed and be mutilated—
But why this resume?
He was skelped 'gainst the custom of Nations, and cut off like a rose in its bloom.

So I asks without guile,
And I trusts not in vain,
If this is the style
That is going to obtain—
If here's Captain Jack still a livin', and Nye with no skelp on his brain?

—*New York Tribune.* BRET HARTE.

A SKETCH AT EVENING

The whip cracks on the plough-team's flank,
The thresher's flail falls on the duller,
The round of day has warmed a bank
With the ripest yellow color.

The dairy-girls cry home the kine,
The kine in answer lowing;
The rough-haired louts with sleepy shouts
Drive on the geese scolding.

The creaking wain, brushed thro' the lane,
Hangs straws on hedges narrow;
And smoothly cleaves the soughing plough,
And leads the furrows harrow.

Comes, from the road-side inn caught up,
A brawl of crowded laughter,
Thro' falling brooks and cawing rooks
And old idle scrambling dafter.

—*John Leicester Warren.*

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD

EXPOSURE OF MANURE—COVERING.

Mr. Joseph Harris has the following article in the *American Agriculturist for June*: I would be glad to see in the '*Walks and Talks on the Farm*' some remarks on the common opinion that manure spread in summer wastes by exposure to the air. I have not performed experiments in this way, but have long been in the practice of spreading manure both in autumn and winter, more especially on grass to be plowed under for corn in spring. The complete diffusion of the soluble manure by rains and melting snows renders it about twice as useful as by the more imperfect manner of spreading when spread and plowed under in spring. Now, suppose manure is spread early in summer on grass or other land, will not rains wash it into the soil equally well? If the summer is dry, why will not the manure lie on the surface until the rain comes? What becomes of it? I am aware that this inquiry is often made, but I would like to have an answer based on actual experiment.

If we spread say fifteen tons of ordinary barn-yard manure on an acre of grass-land in the spring it makes quite a show. But harrowed in two or three times at intervals of a few days, and it is soon hardly seen, and soon disappears. "What becomes of it?" This fifteen tons of ordinary manure would probably be composed of

Water, lbs.	22,000
Carbonaceous matter, lbs.	7,000
Mineral matter, lbs.	850
Nitrogen, lbs.	150
Total, lbs.	30,000

In our dry climate and in hot weather the 22,000 lbs. of water would soon evaporate. We should then have 8,000 lbs. of dry matter spread over an acre; or about three pounds on a square foot. If this matter was reduced to powder it could hardly be seen on the surface of the land, and we might think that the manure had passed into the soil in spite of the fact nothing had been lost but water. In this 8,000 lbs. of dry manure there is 7,000 lbs. of carbon, largely combined with oxygen. It is believed to possess comparatively little fertilizing value. All that we have to look to, then, is the 850 lbs. of mineral matter, and the 150 lbs. of nitrogen. No one supposes that the mineral matter will waste by exposure to the atmosphere. The only risk of loss is from the evaporation of the 150 lbs. of nitrogen. It was formerly supposed that the nitrogen in fermented manure existed in the form of carbonate of ammonia, and that when the manure was exposed to the atmosphere the ammonia evaporated. The carbonate of ammonia *would* evaporate; but it has been found that barnyard manure rarely contains any carbonate of ammonia.

If we should spread fifteen tons of green clover on an acre of land we should furnish

Water, lbs.	24,000
Carbonaceous matter, lbs.	5,420
Mineral matter, lbs.	430
Nitrogen, lbs.	150
Total, lbs.	30,000

Another plan would be to let the clover lie on the surface of the land. In this case there is danger of losing more or less free nitrogen. The carbon of the clover would be converted into carbonic acid, and the hydrogen into water, and the nitrogen would, to some extent at least, be set free and escape. I do not think, however, that there would usually be any great loss of nitrogen. The half-ton of albuminoids contained in the fifteen tons of green-clover would be spread on the surface of an acre of land. It would be exposed to the solvent action of a large quantity of water. An inch of rain gives about 225,000 lbs. of water per acre, and it would seem that when the clover or barnyard manure was spread on the land that our drenching rains there would not be much soluble matter left in it. Dr. Voelcker found only 8.50 per cent. of albuminoids in clover hay that had been spread on the land by rains before being cut; while good clover hay contains nearly 16 per cent. of albuminoids. The rain had dissolved the albuminoids and carried them into the soil.

But, as before remarked, what the plants need is nitric acid or ammonia; and after the albuminoids are washed into the soil they must be decomposed before they become food for plants. When dissolved in water and carried into the soil, there can be little doubt that this decomposition would proceed much more rapidly than when the clover is plowed under.

If, instead of using this fifteen tons of green clover for manuring, it was made into hay and fed to animals, and all the liquid and solid excrements carefully saved, we should lose perhaps five per cent. of the nitrogen, which is retained in the wool, flesh, etc. But this nitrogen in the excrements is in a very different form from that in the clover. The nitrogen exists largely in the form of urea, a substance containing over 46 per cent. of nitrogen, and which, as long as it is dry, can be preserved for any length of time without decomposition or loss, but when in solution rapidly changes into carbonate of ammonia.

If all the nitrogen in manure existed in the form of urea, uric acid, hippuric acid, urate of ammonia, etc., there would probably be no special advantage in fermenting manure before applying it to the land. The experiments of Dr. Cameron and Prof. S. W. Johnson seem to prove that plants can take up these substances. But still the grand fact remains that in Lawes' and Gilbert's experiments the nitrogen in barnyard manure does not produce as marked an effect on the crops as the nitrogen in ammonia-salts and in nitrates. In other words, the nitrogen in barnyard manure is largely unavailable.

Barnyard manure contains more or less straw, and the solid excrements also contain a considerable proportion of undigested material. It is the nitrogen in these substances that is unavailable. And hence the experiments of Johnson and Cameron, showing that plants can take up urea, are not inconsistent with the field experiments of Lawes and Gilbert showing that much of the nitrogen in barnyard manure will remain dormant in the soil for many years.

What we now need to discover is some method of rendering all the nitrogen in barnyard manure available. Mr. Thomas, while he does not directly say so, is evidently in favor of spreading the manure on the surface of the land, and letting it lie exposed to the action of the sun and rain. The air, and more the damp soil, dews, etc., would soften and break to pieces the hard, external covering of the straw, and expose the nitrogenous matter, etc., to the action of the next shower of rain, which would dissolve it and carry it into the land, and distribute it more intimately among the particles of soil than it could be done by mechanical means. There can be no doubt that this plan has many advantages. But we want more facts before we can decide whether the loss is not greater than the gain. I would hesitate to adopt it wherever it was convenient.

DOMESTIC RECIPES.

How to Make Vanity.—Break two eggs into a pint of flour; stir the eggs and flour together until the paste can be rolled without sticking, adding more flour if needed; roll very thin and work the dough over a good many times. Cut in a square form, then cut slits inside the square about half an inch apart, twist them, then drop into heated lard and fry half a minute.

Outlets of Veal, Lamb or Shote.—When the rack of veal is chosen, divide each bone separately, break an egg, and wet the pieces with it; then roll in bread-crumbs, afterwards frying them in lard. Make a nice gravy with butter, pepper, and salt, mixed with the bread-crumbs. Any part of the veal almost, cut in small pieces, may be dressed in the same way. The shoulder of lamb is thoroughly done to good. Either a quarter of a lamb or shote, cut up in small pieces—that is to say, the usual size for chops—may be dressed in the same way, and will be found very nice.

Sponge Cake Pudding.—Melt some butter, and grease very well with it the inside of a tinted cake-mold, using for the purpose a feather or brush. Then glaze the mold with powdered white sugar—that is to say, shake it about until the part greased is equally covered with the sugar, and looks white. Stone some raisins, and have ready a few currants, washed and picked. Place them according to fancy in the curvings of the mold. Take some sponge cake—stale will answer—cut it up small, filling the mold with it, as you do so mixing lightly throughout currants and raisins rubbed in flour to prevent their falling. Beat up four eggs, the whites separately from the yolks, add four table spoonfuls of sugar, one to each egg, and than pour gradually to them until well combined three-half pints of cold new milk, which quantity should be enough to fill the mold. Set your pudding in a pan containing enough water to come a little more than half-way up the sides of the mold, and as the water begins to boil see that the oven is so moderately heated as to insure the slow baking of the custard, else it might turn to whey. Do not let the pudding burn or burn; it should be done in about a quarter of an hour after the water has boiled around it. Sauce made thus: Four yolks of eggs beaten up with four tablespoonfuls of sugar stirred in half a pint of milk ale-stout to come to a boil. Return to the fire for about five minutes, stirring rapidly. Flavor with what you please; rose-water is good. Turn out the pudding in a pretty dessert dish, pour the sauce around it and the work is done. The above recipe is especially adapted to meet the wants of small families, as a pudding or cake is apt to accumulate and turn stale. An elegant and economical dish is thus prepared out of materials that would otherwise be wasted.

SALTING ASPARAGUS.

Salt may be spread on asparagus beds at any time during the season in heavy or light doses, and without injury. When the salt is scattered on the surface in June or July, it will save considerable work all the rest of the summer in hoeing and weeding, and at the same time, plants, especially in young beds, will thrive under such treatment. The salt will not only furnish food, but will keep the surface moist. Five or six years ago a friend recommended the application of salt to beds of asparagus, and I have followed his advice ever since. Experience proved that the salt effected this result the first season very well indeed; but the following year the weeds appeared to be much as before. But what was strange about it was that for three years after one could see at a glance any morning just how far the salt was spread on each walk from the dampness of the surface, while the other parts of the walk were generally dry.

The same experiment was tried again still later, on another part of the garden, and with the very same result. It is, therefore, a reasonable conclusion to draw that salt has strong hygrometric power, and this moisture does have a marked influence on vegetable growth. It may be argued that weeds grow in spite of it. It may be spread on very thick without injuring the plants. We have frequently put salt two inches in thickness on old asparagus beds without any injury to the plants, but it produced no advantage in these heavy doses. A light sprinkling, say a bushel to two rods square, will be quite enough for all practical purposes. This may vary with the quality of the year to advantage. Some gardners use a less quantity, and apply it every spring.—*Garden.*

BLACKBERRY WINE.

The blackberry is used for medicinal purposes, particularly in derangements of the bowels. We therefore copy the following plan, used by Swiss settlers in the United States, and it is said to make the most excellent wine: To one bushel of berries put two gallons of water, and express the juice; to each gallon of liquid add one pound of refined white sugar. Put into a cask about a fifth full of clean, sound stones broken into small pieces; then pour the liquid upon it. Let it ferment. As soon as the fermentation subsides close the cask tight and let it remain undisturbed for three months, then rack off and bottle it, and set in a cool cellar.

THE USE OF GUANO.

Stockhardt, who is one of the most reliable of chemists, made some experiments with guano on potatoes, the result of which is worthy of the attention of farmers, as it shows that there is such a thing as having too much of a good thing. He applied 163 pounds of guano per acre, and each pound of that fertilizer produced an increase of 25.2 pounds of potatoes; in other words 2400 pounds, and 1122 pounds; in case of 520 pounds, but 2.5 pounds in case of 685 pounds, but 1.75 pounds increase of potatoes were obtained. Mr. Lawes' experiments with superphosphate compound, &c., gave similar results. Experiments have proved that each fertilizing agent has its particular amount in promoting growth, and that a large accumulation of any one of them might be useful, if not actually hurtful, at least bad economy.

LIME IN THE ORCHARD.

Where apple orchards are kept permanently in grass a top dressing of lime, of eighty bushels to the acre, every five years, will prove beneficial. As to whithwashing the trunks of trees we give the preparation for this purpose prescribed by W. Saunders, of the government gardens at Washington, D. C. The wash is made as follows: Put half a bushel of lime and four pounds of powdered sulphur in a tight barrel, slacking the lime with hot water, the top of the barrel being kept closed. The cloth is then reduced to the consistency of ordinary whitewash, and at the time of application half an ounce of carbolic acid is added to every gallon of the liquid. Saunders says: "I generally apply in the spring, before the leaves make their appearance, but I am convinced that it would be more effective if applied later; but am a little afraid that the leaf of the tree is in foliage." Sounders applies the wash not only to the stem of the tree but to the crotch of the main branches.

TREATMENT OF HORSES.

All horses must not be fed in the same proportions, without regard to their ages, their constitutions, and their work; the impropriety of such a practice is self evident. Yet it is constantly done, and is the basis of disease of every kind. Never use bad hay on account of its cheapness, because there is no proper nourishment in it. Damaged corn is exceedingly injurious, because it brings on inflamation of the bowels and skin diseases. Chaff is better for old horses than hay, because they can chew and digest it better. Mix chaff with corn or bran, and do not give the latter alone because it makes the horse chew his food more and digest it better. Hay or grass alone will not support a horse under hard work, because there is not sufficient nutriment in bulk in either. When a horse is worked hard its food should be chiefly oats—if not worked hard its food should be chiefly hay because oats would supply more nourishment and fleshy matter material than any other kind of food; hay not so much. For a saddle or coach horse, half a peck of oats and one bushel of potatoes would be good hay are sufficient. If the hay is not good, add a quarter of a peck more oats. A horse which works harder may have rather more of each; and a light draft horse will have less. Rack feeding is wasteful. The better plan is to feed with chopped hay, from a manger, because the food is not then thrown about, and is more easily eaten and digested. The hay with water that has salt dissolved in it, because it is pleasing to the animal's taste and more easily digested. A teaspoonful of salt in a bucket of water is sufficient. Oats should be bruised for an old horse, but not for a young one, because the former, through age and defective teeth, cannot chew them properly; the young horse can do so, and thus properly mixed with saliva, and turned into wholesome nutriment.—*London Horse Book.*

OILING HARNESS.

A coresponden of the *Prairie Farmer* gives the following good plain, practical directions for oiling harness, and although the mode has been long familiar to many of our readers, it may be new to others, and therefore useful:

Harness should never be used over six months without oiling. I take my harness apart, or unbuckle it as much as convenient, and put it into the soap suds of the last washing, giving it a good soaking, then take it out upon a bench of the proper height for convenience in working, remove all the dirt and gummy substance with the assistance of a stiff brush and the soap suds. I then find it just the time to make necessary repairs. In a few hours it has dried from the surface, and I then apply the oil and a little lampblack mixed, with a common paint brush, and dry in the shade; if frozen all the better. When dry wipe off with a cloth and put together.

It is my opinion, founded upon a forty years' experience and close observation, that harness rotted in this manner will last twice as long as it will without proper oiling and care. The more leather is neglected, the darker it will become, inwardly, and the darker it is the less durable it will prove. Good oil will do when applied to recuperate it.

Ammoniacal fumes arising in the stable have a strong tendency to eat up the oil in the harness; hence the desirability of storing harness out of the reach of this influence.

BEES AND GRAPES.

As in many sections the bees are nearly exterminated, and in somequaries entirely gone, the prejudice against bee keeping, engendered by the idea that they harm fruit, grapes especially, will be somewhat removed, and there will be less in the way of impartial judgment. The food supposed to poison will have an opportunity to test further the few suggestions heretofore offered regarding the accusations against them. I wish the man who threatened arsenic—if he lives where they are exterminated—would look a little closer when his grapes ripen, and see if none are spoiled for market without the bees; I have grapes and shall have as many bees within a few rods of them as usual, and can have no better chance to study their habits than heretofore. After writing to —— last fall I watched closely to see, if possible, a bee puncture on one grape, but failed to discover it. On looking over early in the morning, scarcely light, I found many times that something had taken off a third of the skin, on the upper side, leaving it just in condition for the bees to suck out the juice, not over a half dozen in a cluster, and often but one or two were touched. What does it? There seems to be some evidence that it is the robin. It may be mice; but not the bee! The bees is asfond of the juices of the apple as of the grape, as I have tested to my cost. There is a cider press within twenty rods of the bee, where thousands gets lost in the pomace, but they never pierce the skin of an apple to get the juice any more than the skin of the grape.—*M. Quinby, St. Johnsville, N. Y.*

STATE NEWS.

Punxutawney has a new paper, the *Valley Spirit*, Frank M. Smith editor and proprietor. It is neatly printed, carefully edited, and deserves to succeed. It is independent, politically.

The Meadville *Republican* of the 17th says: About one o'clock yesterday afternoon lightning struck a tree close to the Gable school house, in Vernon township, under which, at the time, were a large number of school children playing. The tree shows but little the effect of the stroke, but the bolt, on reaching the ground, left most heart-rending evidence of its power. A little girl about thirteen years old, daughter of Lewis Trace, was standing near the tree at the time, and received most frightful injuries from which, it is doubtful if she will recover. Her clothes were torn literally into shreds and fragments and were scattered for several yards around. Her shoes were torn all to pieces and thrown quite a distance from where she was standing. Her body and limbs in many places were frightfully burned. A number of boys were playing ball under the tree at the time, all of whom received more or less injury. One boy was quite seriously burned but his life is not despaired of. Many others were taken home severely shocked. Surgical aid was summoned from Evansburg, and when our informant left the scene all were living although but slight hope was entertained for the young girl.

The Allentown *Chronicle* says: The slate trade is very brisk just now, the demand being large and steady. There is a probability of the price advancing somewhat, because laborers' wages in the quarries are effected by the terms offered by the Berks County Railroad Company. The quarries have been paying one dollar and forty cents per day, and the railroad ten cents more, so that some of the quarry hands have been drawn to railroading. Two gangs of Italians, one numbering about forty-two, and the other about thirty, arrived from New York yesterday, and went to work on the railroad.

The Fifth Presbyterian church, Harrisburg, was organized on Thursday evening.

Peter Carter, of Sugarcreek township, Venango county, was killed by a stroke of lightning on Monday last.

A Cumberland county man, whose sleep was broken by an all-pervading odor far removed from frying pan and stove investigation as the cause, which was only removed after he had slain seven little skunks on the premises.

Some of the rolling mill men in Norristown are on a strike for an increase of wages. They could not chose a worse time.

It is tantalizing to denizens of cities to know that good butter can be had in the country at Bellefonte for twe.ve and a half cents per pound.

The Petrolia *Reporter*, published by Young & Criswell, is to be suspended.

A girl in Reading possessed herself of her father's bank-book, forged a check for all the old man's balance on deposit, had it cashed, and "lit out" with a "handsome young foreigner" who had made her acquaintance on the Reading excursion to Ontario.

It turns out that Horton, who has lately made himself famous by some rather acute financial transactions in New York and Philadelphia, was a clerk in a bank in the latter city in 1863, going at that time to the banking house of Jay Cooke & Co. While in this position he was entrusted by the officers of the bank with a box containing $46,000 in bonds belonging to an old man named Smith, with instructions to take them to another bank and deposit them. Neither Young nor the bonds were ever seen again. In 1864 he was implicated in the Gaylor gang of New York burglary, Lancaster county, and there remained until his recent scheme was matured.

The Lancaster *Intelligencer* exercises at Lafayette College, Easton, on the 29th inst.

Frank Cowan's Paper announces that the rearing of silk worms and the manufacture of silk are to be tried in Westmoreland county. Prof. Andrews, of New York, who has had experience in rearing the larvæ, has determined to transport to Greensburg the eggs of a species that lives on the leaves of the white mulberry, a tree that grows well. It is to be hoped the experiment will prove successful.

The potato bug is destroying all the tomato plants about Altoona.

The Shickshill *Republikan*, published at Minersville, has been enlarged to nine columns to the page. It is handsome in appearance and edited with care and discrimination.

The Waynesburg *Independent* says: Fresh specimens of iron ore are still being brought to town occasionally by Mr. Thomas Bradley, who, for one, seems determined that the new Greene county discovery shall not be forgotten. He has confidence in the excellence in the ore, and believes it exists in large quantities on his farm.

A young man named Blystone died in Cambridgeboro the other day from drinking water when he was warm.

An exchange says: Some idea may be formed of the extent of the lumber trade on the Pennsylvania Canal, when we mention the fact that many lumber boats, carrying from 80,000 to 95,000 feet of lumber, pass down the canal daily, and large lots are unloaded way up the Susquehanna. In case of 685 pounds, but 1.75 pounds increase of potatoes were obtained. Mr. Lawes' experiments with superphosphate compound, &c., gave similar results. Experiments have proved that each fertilizing agent has its particular amount in promoting growth, and that a large accumulation of any one of them might be useful, if not actually hurtful, at least bad economy.

John J. Krguss, a well known business man was drowned on the 20th, while fishing.

The Lancaster *Examiner* calls upon the authorities of that city to wipe out all unmuzzled dogs, found running at large.

The laborers at the Lancaster city water works are on a strike for higher pay.

A motherly old hen in Emporium, deprived by her owners of an opportunity of rearing a brood of chicks, has adopted a young rat, which she cares for with great assiduity. For this story hold the Emporium *Press* responsible.

The Mansfield *Advertiser* remarks: "A Tioga girl attended a dance not long since, and when asked by a young gentleman from Wellsboro to waltz, replied: 'Excuse me, I cannot whirl around figures; they always make me puke."

The Emporium *Independent* says that on Friday last a young man named Collins, while stealing a ride on the Empire freight train, fell off about three miles west of that place, and the care passing over his neck completely severed his head from his body.

The first of the series of excursions to be given to the poor children of Philadelphia is announced for to-morrow, and it is expected that more than 1,200 will participate.

The new Methodist Episcopal church at Fredonia, Mercer county, will be dedicated on Sunday next. The Rev. L. W. Day will officiate.

James Callahan, aged nine years, was drowned while bathing in the canal at Jersey Shore, on the 19th inst.

A fellow named George Silbert committed a brutal outrage upon the person of Mrs. T. M. Taggart, in Delaware township, Northumberland county, on the 14th inst., and has thus far escaped arrest.

An old lady, Mrs. Caslow, was run over by a locomotive at Milton, on the 19th inst., and so badly hurt that she died the next day.

A correspondent of the Erie *Dispatch* says they have a queer specimen of humanity in the borough of Girard, in the shape of a negro resident named David Dugal. He is ninety-five years of age, is worth $200,000, lives in an old shell of a house near the Court House, which he has occupied for twenty years in all, is a bachelor, has no relatives, and has lived this long period alone, with neither the smiles or frowns of woman to enliven him. He owns what is the "eye sore" of the whole town, a dilapidated building a dozen in number, in the very heart of the town. Love, money or persuasion, can't induce him to lease or sell any of this property. He has some singular traits of character. He cannot be termed a miser, although he never openly gives us ample store, but he has been detected in bestowing alms in a sly way, such as creeping up to the doors of the poor at night and leaving what he knows to be needed, the occupants start for the door, old "Davy" deposits his gift on the steps, and leaves unobserved; or he will pay a teamster for a load of coal, and order it to some needy person, with a strict order not to reveal the name of the donor.

When verdant Philadelphia drummers wander away from that slow village to the city of Lock Haven, they are very apt to be taken in and done for. A case in point: A modest young gentleman, representing a Philadelphia establishment in the line of hoses, was in Lock Haven last Monday night, and in order to while away the time, went to a German beer hall. While drinking, he was accosted by one, one representing himself as a policeman, and the other saying he had lost a watch, and charging the Philadelphia man with having it. He submitted to a search of his person, and the quasi policeman and his friend took a good watch, money and other valuables, and their departure. Another stranger came up at this moment and assured Quaker City that it would be all right—he would get his property back when the case was heard before a magistrate. It is needless to say that hearing never was had.

IN VARIOUS localities about the lakes there are lying on the bottom a number of vessels, many of them of the better class, laden with railroad iron and other property of great value, among which may be included both iron and copper ore. With some of the new and improved methods of deep sea diving depths, nearly all of these vessels, with their cargoes, can be recovered without much difficulty, should no storms intervene. The weather that for this season has been unusually favorable for such undertakings, and possibly may thus continue during the summer months, and, from what can be learned of those engaged in the enterprise, the experiment will soon be made. One of the boats lost vessels is the schooner Saltillo, laden with railroad iron, while going up the river St. Clair some twenty years since. Parties are now engaged in recovering the cargo, but as the vessel is well along in years the hull has doubtless become broken by ice, and is of little value. The amount of property thus buried beneath the waters has been estimated at upwards of $3,000,000, which is probably below the actual figures.—*Detroit Free Press, June 4.*

IN A letter from Vienna, C. C. Fulton, editor of the Baltimore *American*, says: "The publication here of General Van Buren's letter to President Grant has excited considerable attention, and the impression among Americans here is that he has greatly wronged. Minister Jay is by no means popular, being regarded as too aristocratic in ideas and too much a worshiper of royalty to suit American taste. Mr. Bancroft, at Berlin, who has just been recalled, was, on the contrary, extremely popular with Americans visiting or residing at and open for their reception and entertainment. The letter of General Van Buren is spoken of as not very diplomatic, but it has in it the ring of honesty to the nation, and he undoubtedly has the support of the American depositors, who are preparing to come out strong in his defense. It is also probable that an earnest effort will be made for the recall of Minister Jay. Commissioner General Watts, who has succeeded General Van Buren, is rather a rough specimen of American dignity, having something of the style of Long John Wentworth about him, and he is almost as large."

No "June bugs" yet! What can be the matter? Will the "oldest inhabitant" please tell us whether it was in the year 18—, or in 18—, or in 18— that the same fact was observed and they had a long spell of weather after it?

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 19, 1873.

Transit of Venus.

The preparations for the transit of Venus are being pressed forward as rapidly as possible at the National Observatory. The work is under the general superintendence of Rear Admiral Sands, assisted by Professors Harkness and Newcomb. It has been decided to establish eight stations of observation. Four of these will be in the Southern Hemisphere, and located on the Kergurim Islands, Indian Ocean; Robartstown, Van Dieman's Land; Blud Harbor, New Zealand, and the Aukland or Campbell Islands. The four in the Northern Hemisphere will be established at Nagasaki and Yokohama, Japan; Valadivostok, Eastern Siberia, on the Sea of Japan, near the Corean boundary, and at some point in Northern China, either at Shanghai or Pekin. The transit will occur on December 8, 1874, and will occupy four hours. It will not be visible in the United States, as the time will be night on our side of this mundane sphere. The observing parties will leave here next June. Those for the Southern hemisphere will be conveyed in a naval vessel, there being no ready means of access to some of the points. The northern parties will find transportation for themselves and their instruments by the regular steam lines. The last transit of Venus occurred one hundred and twenty years ago. This movement of the planet is of inestimable value to astronomical science, especially in enabling the astronomer to compute the exact distance of the earth from the sun, and thus establish a basis from which he can work the distances throughout the entire solar system. At the last session of Congress one hundred thousand dollars was appropriated to defray the expenses of the observations, and fifty thousand dollars for instruments. The Japanese government will establish an observatory of their own at Yokohama, and have requested our government to permit our observers to exercise a sort of supervisory control over it. The Jenno will send a party of his own subjects to Washington to be instructed with special reference to this astronomical phenomenon.

The Centennial.

At a regular meeting of the Pennsylvania Republican association, a committee of five persons, J. M. Wilson, J. W. Douglass, William McMichael, R. B. Kinney and W. W. Burke was appointed to represent the Association at Philadelphia, July 4, 1876, at the ceremonies incident to the transfer, by the Fairmount Park Commissioners of the grounds set apart for the use of the International Exhibition buildings.

Changes in Pennsylvania Postoffices.

The following changes in postoffices in Pennsylvania have been officially announced during the week: Established—Mount Braddock, Fayette county; Pittsburgh to Cumberland; Clay, Lancaster county, Ephraim to Buckingham, Bucks county, miles north. Discontinued—Buddville, Center county; papers to Port Matilda.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 20, 1873.

The Navies Investigations.

The Secretary of the Navy has received the entire approval of the President in his answer to the Polaris inquiry and the arrangements for the search of the missing steamer. The investigations and the deductions made with the assistance of the rest of the commission are of a character as particularly valuable, in giving a dispassionate narrative and review of the expedition up to the time of the separation of the vessels in 1871, and within fourteen months, dating from the time the Polaris left the Congress of Discs. Considering that the party were without written orders, and that no scientific knowledge elicited is pronounced by Professor Bessel to be of importance, the value of the full details of officers for the Juniata and Tigress have been made, and every confidence is felt that the Polaris will be obtained before the Secretary of Polar navigation. The position he was entrusted by the officers of the bank with a box containing $46,000 in bonds belonging to an old man named Smith, with instructions to take them to another bank and deposit them. Neither Young nor the bonds were ever seen again. In 1864 he was implicated in the Gaylor gang of New York burglary, Lancaster county, and there remained until his recent scheme was matured.

The Chief Justiceship.

The appointment of a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States to fill the vacancy created by the decease of Judge Chase, is a subject which continues to excite considerable discussion and speculation. A ready and fair solution of this most responsible duty devoling upon the President is suggested by a gentleman of prominence in the legal profession, that the Associate Justices to select their own chief. This, it is considered, would relieve the President of the base intrigues of designing politicians who are ever ready for this high and sacred office. The highest judicial tribunal, to preserve the confidence of the people, must certainly be filled with suitable men, men of legal erudition and commanding character. In the selection of which political considerations should be of secondary consideration. There is no question of the fact that Curtis or Evarts would command the first vote of the entire members of the Supreme Bench and the bar of the United States. The President has stated as well as the bar of the country to select the successor of Chase. This plan meets with general favor, provided it be carried out in an honorable manner. For the disreputable quacks, who are generally the most active and shameless, lend to the matter the Court will be likely to get anything but a desirable Chief Justice. Much has been said about Conkling in this connection. That person is both gentlemanly and dignified, as well as arrogant, but in point of fitness might be illustrated through an amusing and well-directed hit made by Senator Carpenter, of Wisconsin. Conkling never had but one case before the Supreme Court, and that a very small one—a California land case. The case was docketed for a certain day. The time came, and Conkling responded, but the court, thinking not putting in an appearance. The next time he was notified by the Court, Conkling was in need. It appeared that he was all adrift. He apparently had not the slightest idea what to do. Under the circumstances he called on Carpenter, then one of the office. He had asked numerous questions as to how to proceed in the case before the Supreme Court and to get it under way. Carpenter was in the room at the time. He heard what was going on. In an unusually rough, earnest voice, and with a scowling of humor, he remarked, "Why don't you get a lawyer to take charge of the case." It may be added that the remark created much merriment at the time, and is not considered to be in the very first rank of the legal wit brought together before the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. It is much to be feared that the keen oratory of Conkling does not lie on a very substantial basis, as would be allowed by it, but simply to assure those who take an interest in the matter that I have not slept well—not becoming as he did from an entirely different sphere of duty, that his excessive labors during the first few years of his Chief Justiceship have told heavily for its duties, it is said by his associates, seriously impaired his health.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON CITY, June 23, 1873.

Steam Boiler Explosions Commission.

Benj. Crawford, of Allegheny City, arrived here to-day, to be present at the meeting to be held here on Wednesday of the Board of Skilled Mechanics, appointed under the act of Congress appropriating $100,000 for the purpose of making inquiries into the causes of steam boiler explosions. Messrs. Crawford and Holmes represent the Western interests, and Stevens and Copeland the Eastern. The object of the meeting is to decide upon a plan of operations. The general purposes and scope of these inquiries have already been given in these dispatches.

The Facts Desired.

Intelligence has been received here that a number of prominent gentlemen of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York and the Eastern States have been in correspondence with each other on the subject of the suspension of the Vienna Commissioners, and have decided to request the Secretary of State to produce the affidavits and other proofs which he has claimed to have of the misconduct. These gentlemen feel indignant at the sweeping action which operated as an impeachment of the character of their friends, who were persons of known integrity and social position. They declare if they obtain no sat isfaction from the Secretary of State, they will get at the truth of the matter through a Congressional investigation.

Public Documents Delayed.

The exhaustion of funds and consequent reduction of the force in the government printing office, until the first of July, has occasioned delay in the publication of some of the reports which have the largest general circulation throughout the country. These are the reports of the Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Education and Smithsonian institution. Those of a special character are the Darien Survey, the Mineral Resources of the United States, and Hayden's Geological Exploration of the Territories of the United States. The latter is completed and lacks only the index. The manuscript of all the other reports mentioned are in the hands of the government printer. Persons particularly interested in the annual reports of the Commissioners of Agriculture and Education will have to wait some time before they can expect to receive these government publications. Work, however, will be commenced on all the above immediately after July 1st, and they will be ready by the meeting of Congress in December.

Reduction of Postage—Postal Cards and Their Uses—Postal Supplies Free of Postage—Rulings Consequent Upon the Abolition of the Franking Privilege—American Competing with England in the Iron Trade—Public Buildings Appointment.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 19, 1873.

REDUCTION OF POSTAGE.

The Postoffice Department officially announces that after July 1, 1873, the rates of postage from the United States to Belgium will be, via England, eight cents per half ounce or fraction; direct by steamers plying between Philadelphia and any port in the week: Established—Mount Braddock, Fayette county; Pittsburgh to Cumberland; Clay, Lancaster county, Ephraim to Buckingham, Bucks county, miles north. Discontinued—Buddville, Center county; papers to Port Matilda.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1873.

The Chicago *Times*, an old-time Democratic organ, probably with its eye on the Democratic County Convention held in this city on Tuesday last, calls the Democratic party "an unburied old nuisance." That is just what it proved to be, here. For evidence thereof see the Pittsburgh *Post*.

There is no telling what important results may come from the "private and confidential" conference of the "Liberal" Republicans of New York. For this reason we now state that the conference aforesaid will be held at the St. Nicholas Hotel, New York city, to-morrow, instead of at Sharon, N. Y., as we announced on Monday.

Whitelaw Reid delivered the annual address at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, a few days since; and the telegraph informs us that at a meeting of the Directors held just afterwards they took up the question of discontinuing the University on account of lack of funds. Are we to regard these two events in the light of cause and effect?

The Philadelphia *Age* denounces Lewis C. Cassiday with great bitterness, and refuses to regard him as a Democrat. Cassiday has always been an active member of the Democratic party in that city, and was elected to be one of its representatives in the Constitutional Convention. We tremble for the unity of the party when such brilliant lights can be thus ruthlessly put out. The next thing we will hear will be of Moore reading the Pittsburgh *Post* out of the party as an organ of the "ring."

Whenever a Democratic editor runs short of political material, he has two resources always at hand—he can either abuse Gen. Howard, or call Grant a drunkard. Some of the Western Democratic papers are now harping on this last string, and are singing the old, old tune, to the refrain that Grant was drunk on his late visit to Chicago. Poor fellows! It is all the amusement they have; and it seems to us idle to follow them up by denying what they know to be false. The mire, it is true, is a dirty place; but a pig is never contented unless wallowing in it.

It seems, now, that Senator Morton, of Indiana, as well as Senator Sherman, of Ohio, refused to receive his back pay, and will not touch it; and we have now to add, on the authority of the Sunbury *American*, that Hon. John B. Packer, the Representative of the Dauphin (Pa.) district, in the House, has pursued the same course. He drew his $5,000 and mileage, and refused to touch the back pay. So there is, at last, *one* more Pennsylvanian to add to the list. We had well nigh despaired of getting a single increase of the list from this State; but now that one has been obtained, there ought to be hope for more.

P.S.—None of the Democratic members from Pennsylvania are expected to refund. They will join with Randall in sustaining the grab.

Newspaper specifics for epidemics are proverbially unsafe and unreliable; but the following is prescribed by the New York *Journal of Commerce* as infallible. It is, that paper says, "an absolute specific for the prevention of Asiatic cholera if taken when the looseness of the bowels is first noticed, and is good at any stage of the disease":

Tinct. Opii,	
" Capsici,	
" Myrrhæ,	
" Menth pip,	
" Campho,	

Mix equal parts and take each.

As already explained, it consists of a mixture of equal parts of tincture of opium, Cayenne pepper, rhubarb, peppermint and camphor, and the dose is ten to thirty drops in two or three teaspoonfuls of water.

Nor long since the Pittsburgh *Post* said that "all the Democratic party has to do is to preserve its organization intact and its principles as they always have been," and we judge from that paper of yesterday that the party in this county has been doing that rather in excess of the usual Democratic style. It says:

"The Democratic County Convention yesterday was marked by more disgraceful conduct than has ever before been witnessed in a Convention of the party in this county. The Chairman, who was also a candidate for delegate, was overwhelmed by his arbitrary and indefensible ruling, and was mainly accountable for the disorder and confusion, a full report of which is given in another column. This may be the way to run a Convention in the interest of a candidate, but we are unable to see its strength to the cause. We may have occasion, hereafter, to comment more fully on the proceedings."

The new departure, begun by the Democracy of Allen county, Ohio, does not grow rapidly in volume. Senator Thurman, it seems, has no hand in it, and the only county that has shown signs of following Allen is that of Montgomery, where the local Democratic organ endorses the move. The Cincinnati *Enquirer* says Ranney takes stock in the movement, Pugh gives it his hearty endorsement, Groesbeck has not yet declared, but he is believed to be in favor of it, Ewing regards it as a wise one, Campbell is still lying low and keeps in the shade, Thompson, Chairman of the State Central Committee, thinks it ill-advised, and Chilton A. White favors it. But plainly there is no enthusiasm for it, and we fear that the new departure will turn out a humbug, after all. Perhaps, however, the Pittsburgh *Post* will favor it, now that Moore has got its head in chancery; and if so, Allen county reformers may take heart of grace and go ahead in confidence.

Whether their epidemic prevailing in the Western cities be Asiatic cholera or not, there seems to be no doubt that the real, genuine, undisputed cholera is spreading rapidly in Europe. The dispatches from the other side of the water all point to its general prevalence over the continent. It is possible that European physicians are less squeamish than ours, and speak out plainly, like the philosopher who insisted that a spade was a spade, and that an unwillingness to have the worst known has led the Western physicians to throw a doubt over the actual character of the disease that has been decimating Nashville and Memphis. If so, we can only say that we prefer the plainness of European speech. There is nothing to be gained by glossing over an unpleasant fact; and when two out of every thousand die daily of a prevalent disease, it seems to us people ought to call it Asiatic cholera than to call it by any other name. Under any circumstances, it is the part of wisdom to look upon the prevailing Western epidemic as being actually cholera, and be prepared for it accordingly.

WHY JESUIT TEACHERS ARE HATED.

When, two weeks ago, giving some account of the Italian law suppressing religious corporations in the late Papal dominion, we stated that, the heads of the various monastic orders would still be allowed to retain their establishments and to reside in the city of Rome. This statement, it appears, was only in part correct, as the exception to the law of prohibition extends merely to the heads now in office, most of whom are appointed or elected for only four years. As the term of each of them expires, therefore, his Roman establishment will cease to be recognized as legal by the government, and will be thus abolished. In the Parliamentary debate on the law the most exciting topic was its relation to the General of the Jesuits, whose tenure of office is for life. Under the law as now interpreted, therefore, he cannot consequently has to leave his old home at once, though not necessarily to leave Rome, as he may take up his quarters in the Vatican, where under the name of *Il Papa Nero*, the Black Pope, he has for many years held "divided empire" with Pio Nono. Some, indeed, say that he is absolute there, His Holiness being a mere subordinate.

The extreme severity with which the General of the Jesuits has been treated is the result of the intense hatred with which the Order is regarded by the Italians; a feeling which is not confined to the rabble but is quite as strong and prevalent among the educated classes. From the reign of Napoleon I. of Order in 1814 until a few years ago the Jesuits were at the head of public instruction in every Italian State, with the exception that during a few years, being out of favor at Vienna, they were excluded from Milan, Florence and Parma by the influence of Austria. As the members of the Italian Parliament are usually men above thirty years old, many of them were educated in Jesuit schools and colleges. And a correspondent of the London *Times* lately mentioned it as a familiarly known fact in Italy that "the pupils of the Jesuits, unless by an unusual reaction, are ardently attached to their order, almost invariably leave their colleges full of enthusiasm for the Society, and become its most implacable enemies."

The fact is certainly rather remarkable, and one which requires to be accounted for. However corrupt youthful human nature may be, and however impatient of restraint most boys and young men unquestionably are, they are not, as a rule, ungrateful to their instructors. In old Rome a teacher so impatient of indolence and dullness and so harsh in his method of punishing them, that an epithet derived from the ferule has become a part of his name in history, was always referred to with laughing gratitude by his pupils, who ascribed a part of their worldly success to his vigorous arm. In England few friends than the head masters of the great grammar schools, who flogged two or three generations into gentlemanliness and scholarship. Of the pupils of cruel old Bowyer, of Christ's Hospital school only effeminate sentimentalists, like Leigh Hunt (Dickens' Harold Skympole), ever remembered his severity with any resentment or disgust. The truth is that a teacher manifestly efficient in his business and interested in the welfare of his scholars, and not unreasonable and exacting he may be, generally secures their respect and in good will for life. This is certainly true of boys well brought up under good home influences. Now both the efficiency and the zeal of the Jesuits as teachers have been the pride and boast of the Catholic Church for centuries.

The mystery of the hatred and hostility with which the Fathers are regarded by their pupils seems deepened in view of certain facts which are, perhaps, not universally known. One of these facts is that in the Exposition of the Jesuit Method of Instruction and Education, published by authority in the year 1600, and never much altered since, extreme gentleness of bearing toward students is strictly enjoined. The Jesuit is commanded "never to forget that the little boys and young men under training may, after a few years, be men of weight and influence." He is sternly enjoined to reflect that "in the ordinary vicissitude of human things even poor youth of obscure connections may become rich and powerful men whose good will may be of the utmost value to the order and to the church." Still more noteworthy is the fact that, at a time when corporal punishment in schools was universal, indeed held to be a quite sacred institution, the Jesuit teacher was forbidden to use the rod upon a pupil. In case a boy proved incorrigible by the ordinary methods, corporal punishment might be inflicted but not by a Jesuit; he was handed over to the "official corrector" who was not a member of the order. We make these statements on the authority of Prof. Karl Von Raumer's *Geschichte der Paedagogik*, a work of recognized accuracy.

Surely, if there is any virtue in gentleness to win the affection or in moral suasion to secure the respect of pupils for their instructors, the Jesuits ought to be the most esteemed and beloved members of the profession. But the proper influence of these features of their method seem to have been quite counteracted by other features of the method. In the first place, they took pains to implant an extreme which gradually fills with disgust every boy who is not corrupted and degraded by its influence. Their entire educational system is founded on rivalry as the only motive by which the young can be induced to labor for unseen or unrealized advantages. Every Jesuit school is early made to consist of a collection of pairs, each boy having his rival assigned to him, and in so far as they enter into the spirit of the system their life becomes a strenuous struggle on the part of one to surpass and supplant the other in every place, quite as assiduously taught and in every way encouraged to play the part of spies upon one another, and thus to become common informers. The two features of the system just mentioned are made to harmonize with and sustain each other. Thus, as prescribed in the exposition cited by Von Raumer, a boy who by some offense or negligence has incurred a penalty consisting of an extra task and a mark of disgrace, may transfer a part of his punishment to his rival or an associate by giving information concerning one of his hidden peccadilloes. One great end of the system evidently is to cultivate the habit of obedience and the elaborate array of ingenious contrivances to effect the object constitutes a form of quiet tyranny which necessitates hypocrisy as a refuge from intolerable oppression. The consequence is that pupils who undergo the regimen without succumbing, ever after seem to retain a horror of the ordeal mingled with implacable hatred of its instruments. And as they grow older and learn that their instructors had merely tried to train them to the system in which they had been trained themselves, and that the members of the order are sworn spies and informers upon one another, so that no member of the brotherhood can trust any other member, and that they are all at once the servants and victims of a despotism which aspires to rule society and government as well as to regulate the smallest acts of individuals, it is not strange that when a favorable opportunity occurs, they embrace it to gratify their indignation. In the discomfiture of Father Beckx a majority of European Catholics perceive nothing over which they need grieve.

PRESBYTERIAN UNION.

A year ago the Presbyterian Church of the North and the Presbyterian Church of the South seemed to be more completely estranged from each other than ever before, but to-day, more than any other two ecclesiastical bodies in the country. It is true, however, that as in the famous Irish dispute, "the quarrel was all on one side." But a premature attempt on the part of the Northern church to re-establish intimate relations, provoked from prominent leaders of the other body, expressions so unfraternal and even hostile that probably most observers ceased to hope for reunion within the lifetime of the living generations. Even two months ago it was pronounced not materially brightened. But lately decisive steps have been taken in the direction of reconciliation, and in despite of the still foaming nostrils of a few politico-theological war horses, like Dr. Palmer, of New Orleans, unmistakable signs indicate a not remote reunion of the churches. The two bodies being identical in polity and doctrine, they are kept apart only by the passions excited by the war, and that these passions should continue to burn much longer in any considerable number of people making pretensions to religious character is simply impossible.

In fact, among Presbyterians everywhere union appears to be in the air. Calvinists in creed, and therefore still holding fast the religious doctrines most antagonistic to the opinions and speculations which characterize the age, which are fast undermining Christianity among themselves in the gradually approaching conflict with "the enemy." In sight of his present strength, and especially in prospect of his resources as they seem certain to be, their own differences of opinion about matters of secondary importance are seen to be quite insignificant. Perhaps they expect to have to bear the brunt of the coming battle. While denominations less grounded in the ancient faith or seemingly less rigorous in its interpretation, make concessions to their opponents and seem inclined to accept a compromise, Calvinists of the Scotch school stand firmly in the old paths, and do not for a moment admit that for the looked for emergency there can be any alternative or choice of courses. The questions which cause so much ado seem to them to have been settled long ago for all time and eternity, and on the line laid down they intend to fight it out. No doubt, some such views have had much to do with those memorable movements in the direction of organic union among the Presbyterian bodies in this country which have already produced important results and promise other results nearly as interesting.

In Scotland also the same tendency is equally apparent, though the results have not yet been so remarkable. Most readers probably know that besides the Presbyterian Established Church, there are two large and important Presbyterian bodies in Scotland which have no connection with the State. These are the Free Church and the United Presbyterian Church. The Free Church received its beginning in 1843 by the secession of four hundred ministers from the Establishment, on account of the alleged abuse of the right of patronage. By this abuse a congregation was deprived of the privilege of rejecting a minister whom it did not wish to receive as pastor, the right of the proprietor or patron of the living to present whom he pleased having been sustained by the House of Lords. Though the Free Church was organized in vindication of the independence of the Church, Free churchmen are not hostile to establishments. On the contrary, they believe that the State is bound to endow and support the Church without pretending to interfere with its internal affairs. It has greatly flourished, and at present, comprises about seven hundred and fifty thousand souls.

The United Presbyterian Church originated in the early part of the eighteenth century, about 1730, by the secession of four ministers from the Established Church. One of their difficulties was also the abuse of patronage, but they had another, the alleged departure of the church from the true standard of orthodoxy as to the "marrow doctrines," that is, the doctrines taught in Boston's "Marrow of Modern Divinity." Those readers who know not this book by perusal, may have some slight knowledge of it through the mockery of Burns or the sneers of Thomas Carlyle. Modernism won the day in this conflict with marrow, and the secession church was the result, and it by union with another small body of seceders became the United Presbyterian Church, which now comprises six hundred congregations and four hundred and seventy thousand souls.

For the last nine years these two churches have been trying to get together so as to form a single church. The discussion to which the effort has given rise has been exceedingly ardent, as was natural in Scotland. The chief difficulty in the way of union has been the difficulty in the way of the Free Churchmen on the relation of the church to the State. The United Presbyterians maintain the principle of voluntaryism, and are therefore objectionable to a portion of the other body, who regard that principle as heresy. However, in practice the Free Church is supported by voluntaryism, and though on principle in favor of an establishment, only a small minority of its members think a recognition of the principle essential to soundness in the faith. But this minority were so zealous and obstinate as to meditate and threaten secession in the event of a union with the United Presbyterians. To avoid such a scandal and the possible legal recognition of the seceding minority as the true Free Church, the majority gave way at the recent meeting of the General Assembly, and the two churches still remain separate. However, a measure called "the mutual eligibility scheme" was adopted, in accordance with which the ministers of either body can be admitted to the pulpits of the other on condition of certain subscriptions. The effect of the arrangement will of course be to bring the two organizations into ever closer relations with each other, and thus prepare the way for the consummation of their entire Union at an early date. Indeed, no doubt is entertained of the result, at any rate, as in both churches the weight of sentiment is overwhelmingly in favor of it.

The Free Traders of New York successfully urged the reduction of the duty on pig metal, when the tariff was before Congress, on the ground that it would cheapen that article to the extent of that reduction; and the same parties are now trying to impress the farmers of the West with the idea that every pound of iron or iron ware used by them is made dearer to them to the extent of the duty imposed by the tariff on imported iron. Yet, almost simultaneously with the reduction of duty on pig iron, the price of that article went *up* instead of *down*; and now, when Wolverhampton is ordering the export of American pig metal to England, the New York *World* is careful to say that "the rise in prices on the other side of the Atlantic cause of the fact." Of course it is: and it is also evidence of the truth that the duty on an article does not always enter into its cost. If pig metal was duty free, it could not now be imported into the United States and sold at American prices; and the fact that American manufacturers are able to make and sell iron cheaper than the English can make it, is proof that other causes than the tariff enter into the prices of goods, and that the effort of the free trade propagandists to induce the contrary opinion is too near clap-trap to be treated as argument.

The Pan Handle Road, as it is called for short, or the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railway, has at last overcome a local difficulty, which has been a drawback upon it for years, in the completion of the tunnel at Cork's run, near this city. This tunnel was originally built for a single track, and the company now running the road undertook to enlarge it to a capacity for a double track without interfering with the large daily business passing over the original single track. This difficult undertaking has been at last accomplished. For two years or more the old tunnel has been in constant use by the numerous trains passing over the road while workmen were engaged at both sides and overhead in tearing down the old arch and building a newer and larger one. This difficult engineering feat having been successful, a second track has been added, and trains are no longer detained at either end of the tunnel for the want of track room within it. We congratulate the patient officers of the road on the attainment of a result for which we are sure they have waited much more anxiously than even the most anxious of their patrons.

The Pennsylvania Road is now engaged, we learn, in a similar enlargement of the tunnel at Gallitzin, taking down the old arch and widening the tunnel to a three-track capacity.

Work on the Hoosac tunnel is progressing rapidly. The whole distance to be bored, east of the central shaft, was 12,387 feet; west of it, 13,104 feet; making 25,491 feet in all, when the case stood. Measuring from the eastern portal 10,000 feet are substantially completed and nearly 3,000 feet remain to be completed (though pierced through) before reaching the central shaft. About 1,200 feet are opened from the central shaft westward (1,116 feet, on the 1st of June); then comes about 1,500 feet of solid rock (1,600 feet on the 1st of June), which the men are attacking from both sides. West of this unopened section are 800 feet of the western end tunnel; then comes nearly a mile which is substantially finished. Then 1,500 feet of half-finished work, up to the west shaft, and then a little less than half a mile finished to the west end—the cutting away part of the floor. A woman who at the time was at the Troy House, was badly frightened by the dog's unearthly howls and the fire that she was thrown into convulsions and it was expected that the second one would recover. The dog was thrown or roasted alive. Neither of the negroes were arrested.

Vitriol-throwing is practiced in Reading. Several ladies have lately had their dresses ruined by the scoundrels.

Naughty, cruel boys in Lebanon punch the eyes out of poor pussy.

Washington county has a turkey gobbler which is trying to hatch out a brood of young, and a rooster stole his nest the other day and ran off with it, which were abandoned by mother hen, hovering them beneath his wings at night, and scratching for them by day.

A slate quarry is being opened near Mapleton, Huntingdon county.

One hundred and thirty Indian arrow-heads were recently found in a field near the head of Falling Spring, in Franklin county.

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According to the latest report of the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics, now in press, our foreign trade for the month ending February 28th, 1873, presents the following footings: Total imports, $68,118,862; domestic exports, $64,358,060; foreign exports, $1,810,003. For the same month in 1872 the imports amounted to $92,911,647; domestic exports, $46,458,067; foreign exports, $1,709,426. During the eight months ending February 28, 1873, the imports were valued at $434,291,063; domestic exports, $384,136,923; foreign exports, $17,780,900. The total value of foreign commodities remaining in the warehouses at the principal ports of entry on the same day was $66,693,532, as compared with $72,736,374 February 29, 1872. Allowing for the difference in the warehouse account, the imports exceeded the exports, domestic and foreign combined, for the eight months ended February 28, 1873, by $45,360,376, while for the eight months ended February 29, 1872, the excess of imports over exports was $34,886,533.

There has been great joy in the colony of Victoria, Australia, at the completion there of the first locomotive made in that region. It is the first engine of twenty-five which are to be built at the Phœnix Iron Mill, and to be preserved in the city of Victoria for the railways in the colony. Heretofore all the engines for these lines have come from England. The turning out of this pioneer locomotive was celebrated by a banquet (and a very proper occasion it was) at which several of the ministers of the colonial government officials and members of Parliament attended, and its efficiency was tested by taking a train between Ballarat and Melbourne and return. The railways in that region are government enterprises.

The Chicago Superintendent of Police, in his annual report, gives some startling criminal statistics. During the year, $277,864 worth of property was stolen, of which only $95,393 was recovered. There were 31,585 arrests, of 919 were on criminal charges. The Americans lead in numbers, 11,164 of them having been in custody; the Irish follow with 10,691; the Germans are next with 4,825. Drunkenness and disorderly conduct were the most frequent cause of arrest, numbering 24,012. Of those arrested, 8,097 had no occupation; carpenters seem to be the most disorderly of any of the regular trades; they contributed last summer to the record; next to them are the masons, with 494.

The following prescription, taken from the advanced leaves of Dr. H. V. Sweringer's Pharmacopœia, is highly recommended to be the best remedy known for the cure of cholera:

Tinct. opii,	
Spiritl glycyrrhizæ comp. Co., aa, one fluidounce.	
Tinct. Capsici, half a fluidounce.	
Tinct. Camphoræ, one and a half fluidounces.	
Ether sulphuric, capiat in ☞ xvi (oz. ss), pro re nata.	

On the occurrence of the earliest symptoms of the cholaraic diarrhœa, it should be given in doses of from thirty to sixty drops every hour (or oftener, if required), confining the patient *strictly to a horizontal position*, until all tendency of the diarrhœa is entirely overcome.

It seems, after all, that people who buy food have some rights, and that the assertion that the necessaries and luxuries of life are bound to respect, so far as England is concerned. A case was tried there recently, in which a tradesman was sued for having sold to the plaintiff as butter a compound of lard, dripping fat, pale butter, and oil from cocoanut cake. He had the coolness to plead that he did not represent the article to be pure, but the Court said that when, on being asked for butter, a tradesman handed an article across the counter, he thereby represented that the article was butter, and not a mixture of the horrible ingredients mentioned in the case. The case was decided on appeal for the plaintiff.

C. C. Fulton writes from Vienna to his paper, the Baltimore *American*: There is a city ordinance which requires the front doors of all dwelling houses to be locked by the porters at ten o'clock at night. Those returning home after that hour, and rousing janitors, are required to pay from three groschen, about five cents, and if after twelve o'clock twenty groschen. As there are few dwellings in which there are not from ten to twenty families, this ordinance has almost universal application, consequently the streets are quiet and orderly, theatrical getting home, and the cafes and restaurants are soon vacated. It seems singular that there should be such a law in a city with a population of nearly one million. The streets are usually very quiet after ten o'clock.

Something entirely new is announced in the way of musical instruments. It is a Pyrophone. A Pyrophone is a flame organ. Vibrating flames have long been known to science. Also that in a glass tube these can emit sounds that are at times very sweet. This is the "singing flame" of the scientific lecturer. A. M. Kartner has been experimenting for two years, with the object of getting a musical scale, and has at last succeeded. His new musical instrument is described as possessing a tone very much like that of the human voice. It has three key boards, each key being in communication with a burner in a tube. On touching a key the burners are forced apart and the appropriate note is sounded—when the pressure is removed from the key, the sound ceases.

Here is a nice point in which law and the veterinary art are equally involved. A man named Miller bought of one Smith, at Hartford, Conn., some time since, the trotting mare Nonesuch. The seller warranted the animal to be "sound," but after the sale Miller found that she was a "cribber," whereupon he brought suit to recover damages. The defense was that cribbing is not an unsoundness, but a habit. The case was lately tried at Springfield, Mass., resulting in a verdict of five thousand dollars for the plaintiff, and the establishment of the great principle that a horse is not sound when he cribs.

Massachusetts has been sensible in enacting that persons acquitted of murder on the ground of insanity must be committed to one of the lunatic asylums of the State for life, unless the Governor, after a hearing, becomes satisfied they can be at liberty without danger to others. The law is likely to be something of a restraint upon "emotional" murderers, as they can never be certain of satisfying any reasoning Governor that a man who has once taken human life is a proper person to be at large, and the prospect of permanent lodgings in a lunatic asylum is not more inviting than a life confinement in prison.

Is England four and a half per centum of the total convictions represent the habitual offenders; in Ireland the ratio is 14.7 per centum. Comparing towns, in Liverpool the population is 329 convictions to every ten thousand of its population, while in Dublin there are 416 to every ten thousand. Londonderry is the smallest place put down in the table, but it is certainly a lively town—1,142 out of every ten thousand of its population being convicted of drunkenness, and nearly half of these being habitual drunkards.

EPIDEMIC CHOLERA.

Rules for Its Prevention and for Its Treatment.

Dr. Moreau Morris, late Sanitary Superintendent of the Health Department of New York, contributes to the *Express* of that city the following article on epidemic cholera, its prevention and treatment. It should receive a careful reading:

As the subject of epidemic cholera is now becoming one of public interest, I forward for publication a few specific rules that will afford such information to the general public regarding the means for prevention of the spread of such pestilence as can be easily understood and applied by every person. Eradicating the poisonous germs of the first case thoroughly and effectually is of the utmost importance. The predisposing conditions for the propagation of cholera poison are neglected soiled clothing, bedding, or other textile fabrics, neglected privies, water closets, whether in private houses or tenement houses; but the special means for promoting its spread are the privies, water closets, urinals, and such like accommodations, upon the lines of railroads, steamboats, steamships, sailing vessels, and at hotels and boarding houses, and wherever strangers are likely to resort in emergencies. A simple, painless diarrhœa should at this time be regarded with suspicion, especially if occurring with a traveler or stranger.

Hence, in towns, sewer connections, unventilated, damp cellars, defective drainage about dwellings—in a word, decomposition, from whatever source, animal or vegetable, should be most carefully and thoroughly looked after, for in decomposition lurks the source from which emanates the human system take their origin, and this one of cholera most especially. Hence every person should watch and guard his surroundings with increased vigilance, particularly at a time when a contagious or infectious disease threatens like as preaching action seems to avail but little, I would suggest a few practical rules in detail for use. These are the results of my experience, in the sanitary care of this city during a former epidemic, and other subjects of interest to health. Temperance in eating and drinking; regular hours for sleep; frequent bathing in pure water with the addition of a small quantity of sulphuric acid, which permeates every crevice and fibre of the human body, and thus purifies the system. Remain closed for three or four hours, it may safely be inhaled without danger, if properly regulated. All soiled clothing and bedding must then be placed in the disinfecting solution and treated as before mentioned. Then with the small piece of cloth, clothing, sheets, bedding, pocket handkerchief or any fabric handy until it has been thoroughly disinfected and boiled. for this disease has been transmitted and communicated months and years after the first infection.

Other disinfectants may be used, but, from their cheapness and general facility of being procured and used, these are specially recommended, having been found entirely reliable.

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New York.

STATE TEMPERANCE CONVENTION—VIGOROUS WORK RESOLVED UPON.

ALBANY, June 24.—A Convention of friends o Temperance and the Sabbath organized here to-day with 31 delegates present. After considerable different members, in which there was a very general expression of disappointment at the course of the Republican majority in the late Legislature, the Convention took

having answered had left the Convention his vote should not be given by his colleague. Carried.

When the Fourteenth ward was called it appeared that there was a contest between two delegates. The seat of P. Connell not having been contested, he was allowed to vote. A vote was taken as to allowing Mr. Gamble, the contestant, to vote, and a lively time followed, about fifty parties trying to make speeches at once. An appeal was taken from the decision of the Chair, but the Chairman, who espoused the Connell cause, was sustained.

The delegate from the Sixteenth ward was so dead that he had to come to the chairman's desk and have the matter explained at the top of Mr. Moore's voice.

When the Thirty-second ward was called, another difficulty arose, and for five minutes or so the Convention was in a perfect uproar, owing to the fact that one delegate wanted to vote for his colleague who was absent. One party asserted that his colleague had been present during the morning, and several parties gave the lie to the statement. Finally the voting by proxy in this case was allowed.

The vote was then taken and the result as kept by the Secretaries was announced as follows: Moore, 79; Coyle, 76. The announcement was greeted with cheers.

Mr. Moore, on taking the chair, said he looked upon this vote as in some measure a ratification of the most sincere work he had ever done—the work for the Democratic party. He also expressed his confidence in the principles of the Democratic party.

On motion the temporary secretaries were continued as permanent officers.

On motion the following Committee on Contested Seats was appointed: Samuel McKelvy, Christian Feld, W. Reel, Uban Stuart and Mr. McFarland.

The Convention then took a recess until a quarter after two o'clock.

Afternoon Session.

At the opening of the afternoon session Mr. Sawyer offered the following:

Resolved, That the Convention now proceed to select delegates to the State Convention in the following order:

Senatorial—One from the North Side; one from the South Side; one from the Fifth ward.

Representatives—Two from the North Side; two from the South Side; one from between the rivers, and one from each of the First and Second Legislative Districts of the city of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Reel moved to amend by striking out the three on the list be the Senatorial and the next highest seven the Representative delegates.

SOMETHING ABOUT YEARS.

Before action upon the resolution and amendment was taken, the Committee on Contested Seats reported. Mr. McKelvy presented a majority report, admitting Messrs. Barnes and McGuire, and Mr. Stuart presented a minority report in favor of Messrs. Mowry and Stokely.

A scene of confusion ensued, various motions being made to adopt each report.

Mr. Barnes was called for to state his position, but many objected.

Mr. Sawyer held that after a hearing before the committee, it was not proper for Mr. Barnes to speak before the Convention.

The Chair held that it was for the Convention to admit or refuse the gentleman the privilege of speaking, and he put the question, which upon confusion, many voices objecting.

Without a decision having been reached by the Convention, Mr. Barnes was heard. He said that his Democracy had been questioned, but he could say that he had voted the Democratic ticket again and again, and had never voted a Republican ticket. He had voted when a member of his opponents were in their swaddling clothes. [Applause and hisses.]

"SWADDLING CLOTHES" OBJECTED TO.

Some of the younger members objected to the allusion to swaddling clothes, Mr. Stuart saying that while young men had worked and voted for the party others had never done anything else but vote.

Capt. Stewart, Capt. McFarland and others tried to be heard in answer, and Mr. Sawyer said that the young men had only to regret that they had not been born sooner.

Mr. Feld, who was one of the Committee on Contested Seats, said that there had been an impartial hearing and he believed in the majority report.

Mr. Reel, amid the confusion, called the previous question, which was sustained and carried. The majority report was therefore declared adopted and Messrs. Barnes and McGuire were admitted to seats from the Seventh ward. (Applause and groans.)

At this point the noise and confusion was so great that a committee was, on motion, appointed to put from within the bar all persons not delegates. The committee went to work in earnest, and succeeded quite a number. They soon returned, however, at the next outbreak.

Tee question was then taken on the resolution of Mr. Sawyer to proceed to ballot for delegates to the State Convention as amended by Mr. Reel, and carried.

The following nominations were then made:

James H. Stewart, Second ward. Allegheny; Jas. Irwin, John Murray, Sr., George H. Kuhn, J. P. Cullinan, Jas. Gamble, Samuel Emerson, Wm. Pitt Bedell, Barnes Ford, H. B. Cochran, R. M. Gibson, Col. Samuel McKelvy, James H. Stewart, Third ward, Allegheny; Wm. Lorenz, Robert Liddell (withdrawn), W. D. Moore, Christian Todd, J. P. Hetzel, C. O'Donnell, W. J. Anderson, James H. Hopkins, J. A. Walden.

The call of the roll was proceeded with, and before many minutes trouble arose. When the Twelfth ward had been called, it being then nearly four o'clock, a motion was made to call the country districts first, and then occurred a scene of unparalleled confusion. The friends and opponents of the present administration all sought to obtain the floor, while many delegates upon desks and chairs called for the attention of the President. Epithets were applied promiscuously, and the Chair was compelled to threaten Mr. Murray with the Sheriff and police. Objections were made to the counting of votes cast on the platform and in the rear of the chairman, and it was ordered to be closed. Motions were made to adjourn, some of "ridiculeeful confusion. The friends and opponents of the present administration all sought to obtain the floor, while many delegates upon desks and chairs called for the attention of the President. Epithets were applied promiscuously, and the Chair was compelled to threaten Mr. Murray with the Sheriff and police. Objections were made to the counting of votes cast on the platform and in the rear of the chairman, and it was ordered to be closed. Motions were made to adjourn, some of "ridicul

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1873.

Wanted.

WEEKLY COMMERCIALS of the following dates to complete our files: February 24th, July 13th and September 28th 1872.

THE Canadian Methodist denominations are moving for reunion. The "Wesleyans" are the more numerous body, and Commissioners named by them have agreed with the "New Connection". Commissioners upon a scheme of union, with every prospect that it will be ratified by the two bodies. It proposes to adopt the title of the "United Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada," and its General Conference will be made up of equal numbers of ministers and laymen.

SOME mousing Democrat, lately found out that Secretary Robeson was rich: *ergo*, argued the Democratic newspapers, he must have got rich by stealing money from the National Treasury. But it having been shown that he was rich before he was appointed Secretary of the Navy, so much the worse, argue the same papers, because in that event, he must have bought his place in the Navy Department. The trouble with these Democratic editors is that they *will* measure other people's corn in their own Democratic bushels.

SOME startling statements are made by Dr. MCKINLEY, of Chicago, in a pamphlet giving the "Statistics of Inebriation in the United States." The net results for the whole country are as follows: Population, 40,000,000. Of 200 men, 122 never drink ardent spirits at all, 100 drink moderately, but not to intoxication, 50 are ephemeral drinkers, 25 drink periodically, called "spreeing," and three are habitual inebriates. To every 178 who drink, three are confirmed inebriates, 25 are periodical drinkers, 50 are ephemeral drinkers, 100 are moderate drinkers, and non-drinkers 122. Grand total 300. One confirmed inebriate to every 59½.

■THE Milwaukee *News*, which procured the assent of the Wisconsin Democracy to the GREELEY nomination, now says:

"It is an easier labor to elect an able, firm, honest, patriotic Democrat as the nominee of the Democratic party to the first office in the State or nation than it is to elect a Republican 'comeouter' or reformer. A Democrat pure and simple will excite less hostility, and the victory of reform will be more completely achieved under his lead than under any other."

If the faith that is able to remove mountains be no larger than a grain of mustard seed, the faith of the *News* man in the ability of his party to achieve a victory for reform must be as chunky as a moderate-sized rock.

THE vexed question of skilled domestic service is discussed by Dr. HOLLAND in a recent article on the subject. He suggests two means of remedying existing evils: one is, to have a bureau of registry in every city, in which no names shall be entered except those of men and women who have established by competent testimony their entire fitness for whatever department of domestic service they may be engaged in. Every good servant would thus be enrolled, and bad ones could not then trade on "characters" which do not belong to them. Another suggestion is, that wealthy and philanthropic men should found schools of domestic service in all populous cities, where men and women can be taught.

VULGAR FRACTIONS in representation is the latest Constitutional problem. The clause fixing the basis of representation in the Legislature, as adopted by the Constitutional Convention, provides that the Senate shall consist of fifty members, with a term of four years each, one-fourth of whom shall go out every year, and that no city or county shall elect more than one-sixth of the whole number. The one-fourth of fifty is twelve and a half, and the one-sixth eight and a third; so that under this new instrument twelve and a half Senators will go out every year, and Philadelphia is entitled to eight and a third Senators. How the Senators are to be divided up into halves and thirds is not prescribed in the Constitution, itself, and we fear it will be one of those things which no fellow can find out.

THE clause in the Bill of Rights on the Press, has been slightly amended by the Constitutional Convention, but not for the better. The present Constitution says:

"In prosecutions for the publication of papers investigating the official conduct of officers, or men in public capacity, or to any other matter proper for public investigation or information, where the fact that such publication was not maliciously or negligently made shall be established to the jury, such fact may be given in evidence."

The clause as the Constitution has amended it, reads thus:

"No conviction shall be had in any prosecution for the publication of papers relating to the official conduct of officers or men in public capacity, or to any other matter proper for public investigation or information, where the fact that such publication was not maliciously or negligently made shall be established to the jury, such fact may be given in evidence."

We can see no great improvement or benefit in this change. The right to give the truth in evidence in such prosecutions is struck out, and the right to show that the publication was not maliciously or negligently made is substituted. In what respect is this an improvement? Is it better to let newspapers lie without stint about public men and officers, and in matters proper for public investigation or information, so long as the traducers can show that they don't lie maliciously or negligently, than to require that they shall adhere to the truth? The change means that; nothing more; nothing less.

A NEW YORK paper lately surprised a good many of its readers with the statement that those impudent Kickapoos, a band of whom was so justly chastised by Major MCKENZIE, have been wont to make their raids on the hither side of the Rio Grande in the disguise of white men. The rascals, it seems, dressed themselves in American garments, preferring the style favored by the herdsmen of the border, and sometimes adopting a dress which, at a little distance, gave them the appearance of a company of Methodist ministers on their way to camp meeting. The villany of such hypocrisy needs no comment, what could anybody say to intensify the disgust which it excites in the virtuous heart? "Stealing the livery of heaven to serve the Devil in" has seldom been more literally exemplified. However, the Kickapoos are not the only people in those latitudes who wage war under false colors. A band of seven Indians as they seemed, were lately captured on a plundering raid in Brown county, Texas. In despite of their entirely Indian equipment and complexion, something peculiar in the physiognomy of one of the rascals excited among their captors the suspicion that they were not what they seemed, whereupon a vigorous application of a little soap and water soon revealed the fact that they were all white men. The trick is not uncommon on the frontier, and the practice of it has been the cause of more trouble with the red men than many people in the East are aware of.

THE freight schedules of the Illinois railroads, under the new law of that State, prohibiting unjust discrimination in such rates, have just been published. They go into effect July 1st. The Chicago *Times* says:

"An examination of the tables shows that for *all* local traffic, passengers and freight, either over any of the road to stations not more than one hundred and twenty miles distant, the rates are very considerably increased, while upon shipments to more distant stations the rates are *not* very considerably increased. Upon an average, the rates fixed by the Chicago and Alton Road under the new law are very considerably higher than the old rates. And while the managing officers of the Alton Company declare, with a good deal of emphasis, that they have acted in perfect good faith, under a liberal determination to conform strictly to the provisions of the law, and with no intent or disposition to establish rates with a view to produce the law odious.

"The *Times* gives them the benefit of this declaration, and yet is constrained to doubt if the fact is so. It seems, therefore, that there is some ground for the opinion that the railroad companies are not trying, in this case, to construe the law in the most honest test of the new statute; but, on the contrary, that they are maliciously seeking to make the act odious, without regard to the interests of the people. It is the greatest mistake the railroad companies could make."

The railroads of that State had an excellent opportunity to break down all opposition to them, among the farmers, by meeting the latter half-way, and regulating the rates of freight in the spirit of the law passed for that purpose. Lower rates of freight, gauged according to distance and no discrimination, would have satisfied the people; but the railroads have lost the opportunity, and have taken a course that must precipitate a fight in which they are sure to come off second best in the end. To have yielded gracefully at first, would have been both prudent and wise, while to fight in which they cannot win is foolish beyond comparison.

AMONG the curiosities on exhibition at Vienna is a German translation of HOMER'S Iliad, stenographed by SCHREIBER. It consists of six hundred pages, which are legible only with the aid of a microscope, and could occupy so little space that they may be said to be literally condensed in a nutshell. The fact recalls, if it does not verify, the statement made by the elder PLINY, on the authority of CICERO, that the Iliad had been written on parchment, in characters so minute that the entire poem was included in a nut shell. Certainly a cocoa nut was *not* meant. The statement was first made in illustration of the extraordinary power of the human eye. In connection with the fact PLINY relates that one CALLIGRATES, a Greek, used out of ivory to carve ants and other little animals, so small as to be invisible to all eyes *except* his own. And one MYRMECIDES was still more famous in the same art, others being able to testify to his achievements. Thus, he carved in ivory a coach with four horses, which a fly could cover with its wing, and a ship which could be covered under the wing of a honey-bee. These and other statements of like tenor have been used by Mr. WENDELL PHILLIPS as evidence that the ancients must have possessed a microscope of some kind. Perhaps as much interest attaches to them as illustrations of the tendency of civilized and artistic human nature in all ages to produce such minute imitations. Wonderful specimens of them are described at the Vienna exhibition; one of them in the Japanese department, representing a grasshopper funeral complete in all the details of Japanese ceremonial, calling forth strong expressions of admiration from Mr. BAYARD TAYLOR and other equally competent judges of art.

PESSIMISM.

A writer in a recent number of the *Cornhill Magazine* prefers a terrible indictment against the British civilization of the present day. The dwelling houses, with their bad drainage, unscientific ventilation, unhealthy accommodations for servants by day as well as by night; with their wasteful grates, insufficient water supply, inadequate heating apparatus, putrid wallpapers and general conditions contemptuous of the laws of health, form the count with which the writer sets out. Perhaps, being regarded as the weakest count, it is placed first that the assault may assume the form and carry the force of a climax. Dress, society and its arrangements, funerals with their silly pomp, marriages with their vain display, the system of service with its general oppression of the weak by the strong, the dangerous classes made inevitable through the folly and carelessness of the classes whom they injure, religion with its formulas void of spirit and separate from morals; these are a few of the topics briefly passed in review to illustrate the essential rottenness of the civilization into which they enter as elements. It is a repulsive and discouraging picture, drawn apparently for the purpose of snubbing noisy, boastful Philistines rather than with the view of suggesting or stimulating social reforms. It is, in truth, not easy to believe that an observer gifted with so sharp an eye for defects, for detecting evil even in things good, could take much interest in the most rational measures for the improvement of the civilization which seems to him so deficient. We cannot fancy him ignorant of the former condition of English society. He must be supposed to know somewhat about the England of a hundred years ago, of the England which used to stone JOHN WESLEY and bespatter WHITEFIELD with rotten eggs. If an old man he may even be able to return in memory to the time when most of the social, political, and legal reforms for which millions remember their promoters with gratitude, had not even been thought of. An Englishman who after comparing the present with the past of his country, sees chiefly evil in the English civilization of today, must be an inveterate pessimist, from whom the cause of reform has nothing to hope for.

Whatever truth British readers may find in the Cornhill diatribe, most American readers will probably congratulate themselves on the comparative exemption of their civilization from the deformities charged upon the English. Though our houses are not all perfect, the ignorance of the past being everywhere recorded in the solid materials of their construction, the tendency, fast becoming stronger and more general, plainly is to adopt and practically apply, as means and circumstances permit, all the improvements in building suggested by science and experience. Among the class who give tone and direction to American progress the importance of systematic drainage, ventilation, etc., is duly recognized. And so we might go over the entire catalogue, taking up each weighty charge of the indictment, and find little difficulty in showing that it does not apply to cis-Atlantic life. True, it may be alleged that our civilization is too young to have developed the faults in question, and it is quite possible that some of them may appear with the lapse of time. But from others and the most offensive on the list we may feel reasonably confident of perpetual freedom in virtue of our republican system.

MR. FITZJAMES STEPHEN, in his book—"Liberty, Equality, Fraternity,"—does not think that "the rapid production in America of an immense multitude of commonplace, self-satisfied and essentially slight people is an exploit which the whole world need fall down and worship." And Mr. STEPHEN, in the limited sense of a different system, has written a book of three hundred and fifty pages, chiefly for the purpose of belaboring the principles which, practically applied, have produced the results so slightly regarded. The first and the last of the epithets used by him contemptuously to characterize the American people are, we fancy, applicable to every nation under the sun. In comparison with individuals exceptionally gifted intellectually and favored by fortune, the mass of every people are of course commonplace and essentially slight. But the other adjective, "self-satisfied," applied to denote a national trait, indicates a real distinction, and by itself implies a world of qualities and conditions nowhere else found together. In consequence of the prevalence of liberty, equality and fraternity, all have equal interest and equal motives in organizing, regulating and controlling their mutual relations, and in correcting the abuses and evils which, whether incidentally or as the result of malignant will, interfere with the common good. Hence, though such deformities as the Cornhill writer denounces, may spring up in our civilization, they are necessarily transient.

And yet pessimists may be said to abound among us, people who criticise not with a view to correction or reform but for the mere expression of their own discontent, and who seem to find pleasure in looking at and pointing out the dark side of things. As somebody has said, doubtless such people would be met with even in Utopia. We do not, however, wish to be understood as maintaining that our social and political state is one of perfect health and loveliness, or as denying that our civilization is marred by serious blots and defects. But there is no use in looking at them through magnifying glasses.

Thus one constantly meets with persons who entertain very exaggerated notions of the prevalence of crime in the country. Looking back a few years they recollect the time when the newspapers of a murder or other crime of violence was an event in their lives, and they shudder at the contrast presented by the present, when a column of their morning paper may be filled with accounts of such atrocities. They forget the mere increase of population, especially by immigration; they also fail to take account of the facilities of intercommunication afforded by the telegraph, which make the morning paper a chronicle of the most worthy acts and sufferings of forty millions of people. Allowance ought also to be made for the natural increase of crime consequent upon recent war, not only in this country but in other countries whose surplus inhabitants are being constantly poured upon our shores. Hence there is nothing monstrous or abnormal in the fact which by some is regarded with so much alarm.

There seems just as little ground for despondency in view of the recent multiplication of offenses against integrity. Some anxiety on account of the evil is, no doubt, legitimate, as it may inspire efforts of a preventive nature, especially in the direction of education, but sweeping invectives against the national character and prophecies of progressive moral deterioration in the American people, should be left to those foreigners who find comfort in such exercise of the imagination. Considering that America is literally the only country in Christendom in which there is no idle class with recognized position and privileges, as the entire population are engaged in the work of bettering their condition, and then reflecting on the extraordinary opportunities of irregular gain presented at every corner and in almost all departments of business, one cannot help concluding that the instances of rascality have been fewer than might reasonably have been expected. The opportunities referred to have often been results of a peculiarly American confidence or absence of vigilance in business management. The future will doubtless make a better show. For after all, the mass of the nation are as soundly honest as ever, not even aware of the temptation to be otherwise; despising rogues with more than hereditary cordiality and therefore quite qualified to impress upon the rising generation the lessons so emphatically taught by the prevalent relaxation in important business centers of the country; a relaxation which citizens in the future will look back upon as one of the phenomena of a state of transition.

Another of the blots which pessimists point to on our civilization is our Shoddy aristocracy, as it is opprobriously called. It ought, perhaps, rather to be regarded as one of our American glories, and to be decorated with a respectful name. Certainly, to groan over it is a foolish waste of emotion, which might easily receive a profitable direction. Shoddy aristocracy is a necessary phenomenon of financial and social development, inevitably springing up whenever and wherever wealth can be rapidly acquired by persons who have not learned, perhaps have not had the opportunity of learning, how to spend their money gracefully in a social way. That the Shoddy people try to be elegant, and even superfine, and is not even failure noble in great and worthy attempts? Then what harm do they do? They do much good. Their coarse and tawdry displays afford wholesome stimulus to a portion of the observant public, while another less amiable section find them a source of much amusement. To both classes the Shoddy are benefactors.

INTERNATIONAL IGNORANCE.

After a few more revolutions and attempts at revolutions we may reasonably expect that sensible people of all nationalities will fully comprehend the folly of international prejudices. Prejudice means a judgment formed without knowledge of the facts necessary to a correct view. In anticipation of a dissolution of the American Union European Tories, indeed Europeans of all classes but a few exceptionally well informed persons, were perfectly sure that the experiment of popular self-government was about to end in disaster. When civil war began, Earl RUSSELL, an old statesman, supposed to have spent his life in the study of the world, past and present, exultingly announced that "the bubble had burst." Even Mr. GLADSTONE, a much abler man, was soon satisfied that JEFFERSON DAVIS had founded a new nation. Englishmen of extraordinary intelligence, like Dr. RUSSELL, the *Times* correspondent, actually in Washington after having personally traversed considerable sections of the country, found himself literally unable to believe in the restoration of the Union, and repeatedly staked his reputation for sagacity on the early outbreak of a revolution in the Northern States. All these persons had formed certain preconceptions concerning the American people, about the correctness of which they entertained no doubt, and making their mere fancies or prejudices the foundation of their reasoning they presumed to foretell the future. Even when Richmond had fallen and LEE surrendered, the belief was common abroad that American troubles of the most serious kind were still to come, as it was taken for granted that the victorious armies instead of disbanding and resuming their peaceful employments, would choose to readjust the Washington government. Mere ignorance and consequent prejudice led to such delusions.

Americans are constantly making similar mistakes about political movements in Europe. In illustration recollect how usual it has been for us upon the slightest and most insignificant grounds to assume the prevalence of republicanism in England, and to indulge the hope of living to see British institutions modeled after our own. Or remember what entire misconception prevailed among us at the beginning of the late Franco-German war as to the real attitude of the South German States towards France, and as to the military resources of Germany. But as to both these subjects the knowledge of the French was not greater, and other nations nearer the scene, the English for example, were hardly better informed than Americans. Then, when France had been conquered, all the rest of the world at once concluded that France was hopelessly prostrated, and that decades at least must elapse before "the great nation," however favored by fortune, would be able to look up, or without absurdity think of resuming its ancient place as a power in Europe. This notion was founded not merely on the crushing defeat, but on the apparent deterioration and degradation of the people. At present, glancing at what France has done in two years, all, even its bitterest enemies, see and acknowledge that the feelings, whether of despondency or contempt, with which foreigners regarded the French at the close of the war, were the result of ignorance and consequent prejudice. Manifestly the nation is still great in all the essential elements of the quality, some of them recently displayed with a demonstration which places the national reputation almost beyond the reach of internal convulsions. Europe seems assured that whoever rules in the country, whether a republic or a king, French credit may be depended upon.

In reference to the Spaniards also the outside world appears to have long entertained some wholly unfounded prejudices and delusions. Well aware that the Spanish people have not quite kept pace either in the sciences or in the practical arts with other European nations, foreigners have hastily concluded that they have neither grown nor changed morally from what they used to be or were once supposed to be. Hence the phrases, "sanguinary Spain," "turbulent Spain," "Spain sunk in superstition," etc. It is perhaps impossible for members of the more Northern nations much to underrate the foolishly self-complacent and so jealous of foreigners as Spaniards. Then, there must be some serious defect in the moral and mental make-up of a nation which in the nineteenth century regards a bull fight as an elegant and dignified entertainment. But if Spaniards have not outgrown bull fighting, they have plainly outgrown the love of human blood, formerly deemed a national trait. Though in their recent revolutions and present state of semi-anarchy, they have shown not more turbulence than the world has shown a measure of mutual forbearance and patience, and a respect for human life from which their French neighbors might well take example. Carlists and Republicans evidently spare each other, and in their mountainous conflicts observe the usages of civilized warfare. When lately the Permanent Committee appointed by the Cortes before adjournment had been detected in a monarchical intrigue with SERRANO, and the rabble of Madrid took up arms to reinforce the troops of the republic, literally no blood was shed. The American committee hunted for with a great display of rattling seal were *allowed* to escape, and SERRANO who had made himself doubly obnoxious to the people was treated with the same indulgence. In the palaces entered and searched for arms hardly any mischief was done. Such facts reported in multitudes by correspondents, prove that the Spanish people have been moved by the humane and tolerant spirit of the age, and they certainly afford some ground for hope that the preliminary struggle may be so carried on as to avoid arousing passions incompatible with a final agreement of the monarchists. The partisans of the respective royal candidates are too indifferent to fight savagely in their cause, and if mildly treated there is hope that in mere weariness they may at last accept the republic.

THE "OLD CARCASS" OF DEMOCRACY.

The whereabouts and condition of the Democratic party is still a subject of grave doubt and animated discussion. The Chicago *Times* persists in calling it an "old carcass," with nothing left of it but such old bones as may be found in National, State and County Committees; while the New York *World* contends that it is only an inanimate body, that may be warmed into new life by sounding into its moribund ears the new bugle call of "free trade and farmers' rights." This, for instance, is the preachment of the *World*:

"The Baltimore Convention, in indorsing the Cincinnati remittal of free trade to the Congressional districts, did so for last November's election only, and for the obvious reason that, having adopted the progressive platform of Cincinnati, it was necessary to keep his platform from flying in his face. The *Times'* inference is needless, to say the least, that the planks of that platform must remain the Democratic party's stamping ground till the day of election. An issue was waived for one election. That is all.

"We still hope to have the concurrence of the *Times* in demanding that that issue shall never be waived again. We hope to obtain, in every district every free-trader, at least of every man who has a vigorous appreciation of the fertility of that political principle for all our present needs, and of its filiation upon the central truth of Democracy, in demanding that the Democratic party shall fly the free-trade flag and join battle upon the free-trade issue. We are not blind to the staring fact that 'free trade and farmers' rights' is a legend which our party may inscribe upon victorious banners.

"The *Times* responds to this that the *World* has seemingly got hold of the idea that what the people desire to get to is free trade, and adds:

"The *World* proposes that that singularly accommoding old organization of time-serving political dead beats called the Democratic party shall execute another somersault and manifest an 'appreciation of the fertility of that principle' for the 'present needs;' or, what is the same thing, for the needs of the ancient political acrobats who are starving for 'the spoils.' Why does the *World* demand that the banner of free trade shall be delivered to the stench called the 'Democratic party?' Is it because the *World* and the offensive old 'party leaders' for whom it speaks desire to incorporate the free trade principle in the laws and the practice of the government? The *World* will not let us think so. No; the *World* would have the old stench called the 'Democratic party,' which last year declared against free trade, and did its best to place at the head of the government the old apostle of the monopoly system, because its object was to 'succeed,' turn itself the other side out, and proclaim free trade to be its object, because the old spoilshunters are not blind to the fact that free trade and farmers' rights (a demagogue's catch phrase) is a legend which our party may inscribe on successful banners!'

"Whether by the 'Democratic party' people are to understand 4,000,000 of men committed to constitute its organization, or those committeemen plus an indefinite number of 'leading politicians' and the persons whose votes they can 'control,' is really not material. Either way, no candid man can entertain a reasonable doubt that the *World's* very dead party would hoist the banner of free trade, or the banner of protectionism, or any other conceivable banner, if only the said 'leading politicians' could be made to think that under such banner they could get 'into power.' Just as that very dead 'fact' once insisted on carrying two banners, one emblematic of hostility to and the other emblematic of friendship for the principle of liberty, because its 'leading politicians' thinking of a principle to be the expedient needful to the attainment of their personal aims; just as, for the same reason, in 1864, it declared the contest for the liberty principle to be a failure; just as, in 1868, it declared for repudiation of the public responsibility in paying the public debt; just as, in 1872, it 'relegated' free trade, and took for its standard-bearer the most vehement champion of the monopoly system; so would it now declare either for or against freedom, or monopoly, or despotism, or Christianity, or paganism, or honesty, or dishonesty, or economy, or anarchy, or anything else; or both for *and* against any of these, or all of these, in whole or in part, or any other way, if only the 'leaders' should 'appreciate the fertility' of such a course 'for their present needs.' To think of the possibility of the 'Democratic party' not being ready to do so would be to think of that party as something other than itself. But the suggestion is without any particular use. For, excepting the old professional party 'leaders,' who want to know *'who's going to run this thing?'* there are few people in the country who think of the ancient prejudice called the 'Democratic party,' at all save as a thing that is dead, and that smells bad when it is stirred."

This is very interesting reading, and one cannot but admire the plainness of speech with which the Chicago man lays bare the hypocrisy of the New York Demagogue. In the meantime SENATOR THURMAN, of Ohio, is proceeding to practical measures, and has introduced the Democracy of Allen county, in that State, to lead off in a movement for the formation of a new party. At their late county meeting they passed resolutions declaring that "both political parties have demonstrated that they are powerless to check or control the existing tendency toward the utter demoralization of the politics of the country," and inviting the people to meet at Columbus at an early day and organize an entirely new party. They have no right to speak for our party: but we accept their own democratic judgment that their own party is powerless and hopelessly corrupt. As to the new party they propose, it will be like an old silk dress, turned and made up anew. It will be the same old material, with but a slightly changed look.

The *Enquirer*, of Cincinnati, is somewhat in trouble over this movement. It does not know exactly where the lightning is going to strike, though it recognizes the "clap of thunder from a clear sky in Allen county." It confesses, however, that it was pre-arranged and admits that "the true import and meaning of this is, that a new party is to be formed," says, "a new departure is to be made in earnest," hails the movement by saying that "we"—the Democracy—"are not far from the millenium so devoutly prayed for by the men who are trying to get away from Bourbonism," yet is a little shy and declares "for our own part we are not fully persuaded as to the course to be pursued," admits that "it has been well understood for some time that the active Democratic leaders at Columbus have been considering the propriety of a decided advance in the direction of the formation of a new political party. General EWING and a number of active men prominent in the Democratic organization have given the movement their endorsement. Senator THURMAN, who is a conservative gentleman and a candidate for re-election, has not made up his mind as to the proper thing to be done."

It would be idle to speculate on any such vague and limited movement as this; but this much seems clear, that the wisest heads in the Democratic party have come to the conclusion that the Democratic party is really dead, and cannot be resuscitated into an effective organization. They may not be in the majority in that party; but the fact that they entertain that conviction, and are putting it in force, must render the party powerless for the accomplishment of any result, as at present organized.

PREACHERS AND LONGEVITY.

Prof. NEWTON, of Yale College, eminent in mathematics and a high authority in vital statistics as related to life assurance, has lately stated that "mortality among clergymen is less than among men of equal ages in other occupations, and that the actual cost of life-assurance is less for them than for men in other occupations." Started by this statement, Dr. TUTTLE, President of Wabash College, has been making researches with a view to its confirmation or refutation as the result might be. As one source of information on the subject we may mention Sprague's Annals of the American Pulpit, an immense collection of short biographical sketches of American ministers of three or four different denominations. From examination of that work and from other trustworthy sources Dr. TUTTLE has derived data which completely sustain Professor NEWTON'S conclusions. The latter seem to have been founded wholly upon the statistics of clerical life in this country collected within the last twenty or thirty years, while Dr. TUTTLE'S facts cover more or less the entire period from 1575 to the present time. Of the 2,442 ministers whose ages were ascertained by Dr. T., the average age was sixty-one years; a very remarkable result. In accounting for it, many, justly taking for granted that the great majority of the persons referred to were really good men, "true servants of the LORD," will recognize in their longevity a verification of the scriptural teaching, which connects length of days with righteousness. Between wisdom and longevity the connection is obvious. A quiet, thoughtful youth, correct in all its ways, succeeded by manhood passed in peaceful activity, alternated with active service in behalf of humanity, might pass as a description of the life of each of a large proportion of the class. In early times, and especially on the frontier, ministers often had rather hard times. It must, however, be remembered that even though laborious, the work was congenial; that is, the worker who had not mistaken his profession, felt that he was doing and suffering in the cause which seemed to him altogether noble and grand. Within his sphere he was generally respected and looked up to; while the profession in the end often renounced the hope of riches, taking a draught on the exchequer of heaven for all arrears, and hence he was for the most part nearly or quite exempt equally from the stings of ambition and from the worry of avarice. Peace of mind is a great promoter of longevity. Then intellectual labor, at least some degree of it, is essential to health and long life, and there can be no doubt that the physical hardships endured by the ministers in the new settlements were much relieved and compensated by the mental exertions imposed by the duties of their profession. Ministers of the present day, living lives of perfect regularity and free from the distracting cares of secular interests and pursuits, enjoy conditions manifestly most favorable to modest health and long life.

Next to clergymen it would seem that men of letters are most long lived, a fact of which the reader may find evidence in any biographical dictionary. A pertinent illustration lies before us in a list of the members of the French Academy, with the age of each appended—the Forty Immortals, as they are sometimes satirically called. Adding their ages together we find the sum total of their years amounts to 2,457, which yields sixty-one years and nearly a half as the age of each of them. But they are still living; M. THIERS being only seventy-six is still in the vigor of life, and M. GUIZOT, the oldest of them all, gives no alarming signs of being near the grave. Indeed, it would be safe to say that a complete list of the members from the foundation of the Academy would exhibit an average considerably above 65.8, the average age of Congressional ministers in this country according to Dr. TUTTLE'S statement.

MINORITY REPRESENTATION.

The Imperial Ministry of Brazil are supporting a measure to remodel the electoral system of that country, included in which is an imitation of the minority representation idea. The electoral law allows to vote for only *two-thirds* of the candidate, however many there are to be elected. In Brazil, the country is generally divided, for the purpose of representation in the Legislature, into triple constituencies. Therefore, every voter would vote supposably for his first choice, and the three candidates would be elected who were the first choice of the most voters. This is the system run mad; but if the claim to minority representation has force anywhere it is in monarchical governments, such as Brazil and Great Britain, where the people do not rule, as in our own republic, but where the right to vote is enjoyed only by a few privileged classes. Representation in the Legislature being there confined to limited numbers, divided into minute class interests, there is some force in the arguments of JOHN STUART MILL and others, that each of these minute classes should have a proportionate representation. But such arguments are based upon the idea of a limited vote, and are of force only in such governments as that of Great Britain. In the United States the ballot belongs to every one alike; it is not confined to comparatively small classes; and in all such governments there can be but one safe rule, that the majority shall govern. The minority is always sure, under a republican government, of being represented, because there will always be places where the minority in the State will be locally in the majority; and hence there is no reason, on the ground of its being under a monarchical government, for protecting the interests of minorities.

The Germantown *Telegraph* has a well written article on this subject, which we append. We are glad to note that among those who have watched closely the progress of events in this State, and are thoroughly posted in the history of politics, the BUCKALEW heresy has made but little headway. Its plausibility gave it force for awhile; but that is passing rapidly away, and sober, solid sense is again assuming its reign. The *Telegraph* says:

Senator Buckalew has so persistently urged the principle of minority representation, and so misconstruing the proper representation of minorities in deliberative bodies, that whenever the matter is discussed he is put in the fore-ground as the chief figure. Mr. Buckalew is a life-long Democrat. In the course of events his party has fallen into a hopeless minority, by reason of its own pernicious acts and policy. No sooner did this happen than Mr. Buckalew and all his associates suddenly discovered how unjustly minorities were treated. For the monopoly system; so would it now declare either for or against freedom, or monopoly, or despotism, or Christianity, or paganism, or honesty, or dishonesty, or economy, or anarchy, or anything else; or both for *and* against any of these, or all of these, in whole or in part, or any other way, if only the 'leaders' should 'appreciate the fertility' of such a course 'for their present needs.' To think of the possibility of the 'Democratic party' not being ready to do so would be to think of that party as something other than itself. But the suggestion is without any particular use. For, excepting the old professional party 'leaders,' who want to know *'who's going to run this thing?'* there are few people in the country who think of the ancient prejudice called the 'Democratic party,' at all save as a thing that is dead, and that smells bad when it is stirred."

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The *Enquirer*, of Cincinnati, is somewhat in trouble over this movement. It does not know exactly where the lightning is going to strike, though it recognizes the "clap of thunder from a clear sky in Allen county." It confesses, however, that it was pre-arranged and admits that "the true import and meaning of this is, that a new party is to be formed," says, "a new departure is to be made in earnest," hails the movement by saying that "we"—the Democracy—"are not far from the millenium so devoutly prayed for by the men who are trying to get away from Bourbonism," yet is a little shy and declares "for our own part we are not fully persuaded as to the course to be pursued," admits that "it has been well understood for some time that the active Democratic leaders at Columbus have been considering the propriety of a decided advance in the direction of the formation of a new political party. General EWING and a number of active men prominent in the Democratic organization have given the movement their endorsement. Senator THURMAN, who is a conservative gentleman and a candidate for re-election, has not made up his mind as to the proper thing to be done."

It would be idle to speculate on any such vague and limited movement as this; but this much seems clear, that the wisest heads in the Democratic party have come to the conclusion that the Democratic party is really dead, and cannot be resuscitated into an effective organization. They may not be in the majority in that party; but the fact that they entertain that conviction, and are putting it in force, must render the party powerless for the accomplishment of any result, as at present organized.

PREACHERS AND LONGEVITY.

Prof. NEWTON, of Yale College, eminent in mathematics and a high authority in vital statistics as related to life assurance, has lately stated that "mortality among clergymen is less than among men of equal ages in other occupations, and that the actual cost of life-assurance is less for them than for men in other occupations." Started by this statement, Dr. TUTTLE, President of Wabash College, has been making researches with a view to its confirmation or refutation as the result might be. As one source of information on the subject we may mention Sprague's Annals of the American Pulpit, an immense collection of short biographical sketches of American ministers of three or four different denominations. From examination of that work and from other trustworthy sources Dr. TUTTLE has derived data which completely sustain Professor NEWTON'S conclusions. The latter seem to have been founded wholly upon the statistics of clerical life in this country collected within the last twenty or thirty years, while Dr. TUTTLE'S facts cover more or less the entire period from 1575 to the present time. Of the 2,442 ministers whose ages were ascertained by Dr. T., the average age was sixty-one years; a very remarkable result. In accounting for it, many, justly taking for granted that the great majority of the persons referred to were really good men, "true servants of the LORD," will recognize in their longevity a verification of the scriptural teaching, which connects length of days with righteousness. Between wisdom and longevity the connection is obvious. A quiet, thoughtful youth, correct in all its ways, succeeded by manhood passed in peaceful activity, alternated with active service in behalf of humanity, might pass as a description of the life of each of a large proportion of the class. In early times, and especially on the frontier, ministers often had rather hard times. It must, however, be remembered that even though laborious, the work was congenial; that is, the worker who had not mistaken his profession, felt that he was doing and suffering in the cause which seemed to him altogether noble and grand. Within his sphere he was generally respected and looked up to; while the profession in the end often renounced the hope of riches, taking a draught on the exchequer of heaven for all arrears, and hence he was for the most part nearly or quite exempt equally from the stings of ambition and from the worry of avarice. Peace of mind is a great promoter of longevity. Then intellectual labor, at least some degree of it, is essential to health and long life, and there can be no doubt that the physical hardships endured by the ministers in the new settlements were much relieved and compensated by the mental exertions imposed by the duties of their profession. Ministers of the present day, living lives of perfect regularity and free from the distracting cares of secular interests and pursuits, enjoy conditions manifestly most favorable to modest health and long life.

Next to clergymen it would seem that men of letters are most long lived, a fact of which the reader may find evidence in any biographical dictionary. A pertinent illustration lies before us in a list of the members of the French Academy, with the age of each appended—the Forty Immortals, as they are sometimes satirically called. Adding their ages together we find the sum total of their years amounts to 2,457, which yields sixty-one years and nearly a half as the age of each of them. But they are still living; M. THIERS being only seventy-six is still in the vigor of life, and M. GUIZOT, the oldest of them all, gives no alarming signs of being near the grave. Indeed, it would be safe to say that a complete list of the members from the foundation of the Academy would exhibit an average considerably above 65.8, the average age of Congressional ministers in this country according to Dr. TUTTLE'S statement.

MINORITY REPRESENTATION.

The Imperial Ministry of Brazil are supporting a measure to remodel the electoral system of that country, included in which is an imitation of the minority representation idea. The electoral law allows to vote for only *two-thirds* of the candidate, however many there are to be elected. In Brazil, the country is generally divided, for the purpose of representation in the Legislature, into triple constituencies. Therefore, every voter would vote supposably for his first choice, and the three candidates would be elected who were the first choice of the most voters. This is the system run mad; but if the claim to minority representation has force anywhere it is in monarchical governments, such as Brazil and Great Britain, where the people do not rule, as in our own republic, but where the right to vote is enjoyed only by a few privileged classes. Representation in the Legislature being there confined to limited numbers, divided into minute class interests, there is some force in the arguments of JOHN STUART MILL and others, that each of these minute classes should have a proportionate representation. But such arguments are based upon the idea of a limited vote, and are of force only in such governments as that of Great Britain. In the United States the ballot belongs to every one alike; it is not confined to comparatively small classes; and in all such governments there can be but one safe rule, that the majority shall govern. The minority is always sure, under a republican government, of being represented, because there will always be places where the minority in the State will be locally in the majority; and hence there is no reason, on the ground of its being under a monarchical government, for protecting the interests of minorities.

The Germantown *Telegraph* has a well written article on this subject, which we append. We are glad to note that among those who have watched closely the progress of events in this State, and are thoroughly posted in the history of politics, the BUCKALEW heresy has made but little headway. Its plausibility gave it force for awhile; but that is passing rapidly away, and sober, solid sense is again assuming its reign. The *Telegraph* says:

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